

Shultz briefs Europeans on Lebanon

PARIS (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz Monday briefed the French and Italian Foreign Ministers and senior British representatives on his efforts to secure the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, officials said. Troops from all four countries are serving in the multinational peace-keeping force in Lebanon. French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson, Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo and the British officials are all attending a meeting of the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris. During his two-week shuttle, which ended Sunday, Mr. Shultz secured Israeli and Lebanese agreement on a plan for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. It was rejected by Syria.

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Arab cars attacked in Al Bireh

TEL AVIV (R) — Eight cars belonging to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank were damaged overnight, possibly by Jewish vigilantes, security sources said. The windshield of eight cars in the West Bank town of Al Bireh were smashed in the second such attack in a week, the Israelis said.

Iraqis sink 3 'enemy naval targets'

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Monday its navy and airforce destroyed three "enemy naval targets" near Iranian oil-fields at the head of the Gulf. A military communiqué said the targets, which were not identified, were hit near the Nowruz and Ardasher oil fields.

Palestine seminar opens in Jakarta

JAKARTA (R) — A United Nations seminar on the Palestinian question, attended by representatives from 14 countries, was opened here Monday by Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmaja. The seminar is the eighth organised by the U.N. in preparation for an international conference on the Palestinian issue, sponsored by the world body, to be held in Paris from Aug. 16-27.

Rabin: Syria blocks Lebanon agreement

TORONTO (R) — Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has accused Syria of blocking a peaceful solution to the Lebanese conflict. Commenting at a news conference on U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's negotiations on troop withdrawals from Lebanon, Mr. Rabin told reporters Sunday: "The way it stands now, it looks like an agreement will remain only on paper."

Hernu meets UAE president

ABU DHABI (R) — French Defence Minister Charles Hernu met United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan Monday at the start of a visit expected to focus on boosting arms sales to the oil-exporting Gulf state. Mr. Hernu, who said he was following up on a visit to the UAE by Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson last November, discussed cooperation between the two states.

U.S. rebuffs Nicaraguan call for direct talks

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States, accused by Nicaragua of making war against that small Central American land, Monday ignored a new call for direct talks. Addressing the U.N. Security Council, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman said his country had come to answer aggression and death with an invitation to frank and constructive dialogue. For the U.S., Jean Kirkpatrick, its chief U.N. delegate, rejoined: "Sandinist insistence on bilateral rather than multilateral talks underlines its desire to resolve its internal problems while avoiding the issue of its export of revolution, war and misery to its neighbors."

Anti-Israeli protests in Sidon Shouf clashes flare up again

BEIRUT (R) — Rival militias clashed in the mountains near Beirut again Monday as anti-Israeli protests by Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslims heightened tension in the south of the country.

Security sources said the five-day-old fighting, which has covered a wide area of Lebanon's central mountains and brought artillery bombardments down on Beirut, was confined to a handful of villages in Israeli-held areas. Five people were killed and 15 injured in clashes early Monday in the Shouf mountains, the sources said, taking the reported death toll in the fighting between predominantly Christian rightists and leftist Druze militias to more than 35.

An Israeli military spokesman said the Israeli army was trying to arrange a ceasefire, while Lebanese leaders contacted the warring parties to end the bloodshed. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, winding up a Middle East shuttle Sunday, indirectly warned the Syrians and Israelis, whose armies control most of the troubled areas, that they were responsible for keeping order.

As the level of the fighting abated, two people were reported wounded when Israeli troops dispersed about 200 Muslim demonstrators blocking the main coast road outside Sidon in southern Lebanon with blazing car tyres. Witnesses said the Israelis opened fire on the demonstrators, who were heading an anti-Israeli strike call by Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslim religious leadership. Shops in the port city were shut and the streets were almost empty. State-run Beirut Radio said the strike was widespread in the Israeli-occupied south, as well as in some villages in the eastern Bekaa Valley. In the Shi'ite Beirut suburb of Bourj Al Brajneh tyres were also burned.

The protest was called after an incident on Friday in the southern town of Tyre in which witnesses reported Israeli forces shot a

youth and wounded five when they met resistance as they tried to enter an orphan's training centre.

In Tel Aviv, an Israeli military spokesman denied there were any casualties in the Sidon demonstrations. But a Reuters correspondent in Sidon visited one of the wounded, Ali Awad, an official of the Shi'ite paramilitary organisation Amal, in a local hospital. He said Mr. Awad had a slight bullet wound.

Before flying out for Paris, Mr. Shultz put responsibility for the shelling squarely on Israeli and Syrian forces since most of it has come from militias within these countries' areas of control. There was no suggestion that Israeli or Syrian forces themselves were directly involved.

Mr. Shultz said the U.S. was doing all it could to stop the Beirut fighting, which erupted as his efforts to secure a withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon had appeared to be reaching a climax. The secretary of state came here Sunday to tell Lebanese leaders that Syria, which he visited on Saturday, opposed a planned Lebanese-Israeli accord for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon.

Mr. Shultz left behind special envoys Philip Habib and Morris Draper to continue the troop withdrawal efforts and both men met Lebanese leaders Sunday night.

Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan said they had discussed points on which Israel was seeking clarification although the Israeli cabinet had accepted the Lebanese-Israeli accord in principle.

Speaking to reporters later, Mr. Wazzan indicated that the clarifications would not involve any Lebanese concessions.



British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher poses for photographers at 10, Downing Street, London Monday, after announcing June 9 as the date for the next British general elections (A.P. wirephoto)

U.K. elections set for June

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Monday called a general election on June 9, her official spokesman announced. Parliament will be dissolved on Friday.

The newly-elected parliament in an enlarged, 650-seat House of Commons, will sit for the first time on June 15. Queen Elizabeth will formally open the new parliament and set out the new government's programme on June 22.

A senior Thatcher aide said the prime minister decided on the early election Monday. She believed it was in the national interest to end uncertainty, the aide said.

Mr. Shultz's announcement, one hour after driving to Buckingham Palace to ask the queen to dissolve parliament, ended weeks of speculation that she would seek an early opportunity to try for a second five-year term.

Elected Britain's first woman prime minister on May 3, 1979, she could have waited until next

year before going to the country. But pressure for an early election while her Conservative Party leads the public opinion polls and economic indicators look favourable to the government gathered momentum.

She conferred for eight hours Sunday with seven of her most trusted cabinet ministers and advisers and, according to a source close to her, made up her mind Monday morning.

Ministers were summoned to an emergency cabinet meeting, so hurriedly arranged that four ministers, including Foreign Secretary Francis Pym, who were out of town could not attend.

A further meeting was called Tuesday to make arrangements to clear outstanding parliamentary business. Most important legislation before parliament is the finance bill, implementing measures taken in the March budget.

Sterling, which slid recently to a dollar value of 1.45 before climbing back to 1.59, traded nervously ahead of the election announcement.

The currency's fall had been partly due to uncertainty over the timing of the election. It was worth around \$1.5785 after Monday's announcement, unchanged from Friday's close.

Government sources said Mrs. Thatcher's visit to the United States this month to attend an economic summit of seven Western nations at Williamsburg, Virginia, might be curtailed.

It was not certain whether she would represent Britain at the 10-nation summit of European Community leaders in Stuttgart, West Germany, on June 6 and 7, the sources said.

At the 1979 general election, Mrs. Thatcher's Conservatives came to power with 339 places in the 635-seat House of Commons. The Labour Party, who had been in office since 1974, had 268. The Liberals won 11 seats and minor parties made up the rest.

In 1981, 25 M.P.s elected on a Labour ticket broke away from the party because of its leaning

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King, Queen in London

LONDON (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Nour arrived in London Sunday on a private seven-day visit. During their stay in London the King would probably meet Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Francis Pym for talks on the Middle East, a British government official said.

Before the King's departure from Amman, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as the Regent.

GCC holds talks on slick, Shultz plan for Lebanon

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf foreign ministers opened emergency talks here Monday on the Gulf oil slick and the U.S.-sponsored plan to clear Lebanon of foreign troops, diplomatic sources said.

They said the ministers from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states would also discuss Kuwait's approach to Washington and Moscow on plans to end the Gulf war between Iraq and Iran, now in its 32nd month.

The meeting is the latest attempt by Gulf states to deal with oil flowing from broken Iranian wells in the war zone at the head of the Gulf, which has caused the region's worst pollution. The states represented at Monday's meeting were Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman. The ministers held emergency talks on the slick last month but reached decisions.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal will brief the meeting on Syrian reaction to the U.S. plan for Lebanon following Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's visit to Jeddah, the sources said.

Syria has already denounced the plan devised by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who had talks in Jeddah on Saturday with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. On the Gulf war, Kuwait last

(Continued on page 3)

Arens not over optimistic about Syrian agreement

WASHINGTON (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Sunday he was not over optimistic that Syria would agree to withdraw its troops from Lebanon.

Speaking in a television interview made in Israel, Mr. Arens said the Syrians and their Soviet allies were reluctant to give up their influence in Lebanon.

"I have no grounds for being overly optimistic," said Mr. Arens, formerly Israeli ambassador to the United States.

He said initial Syrian criticism of Friday's Israeli-Lebanon agreement for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon might be only posturing, and he thought the Syrians would think seriously about going along with the withdrawal agreement.

However, he said, "It is conceivable the Syrians might want to move and the Soviets might not let them."

Mr. Arens said the Soviet

Union had advisers as well as separate military units in Syria and some Soviet advisers were also in Lebanon. He said the Soviet Union was manning anti-aircraft missile batteries in Syria.

Israel has said its forces will not withdraw from Lebanon unless Syrian and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) forces leave at the same time.

Mr. Arens said if it became clear within a few weeks that Syria would not withdraw its forces from Lebanon, Israel would consult with the United States and Lebanon about what to do. He declined to say what Israel might do or how long it might wait.

Secretary of State George Shultz said in another televised interview that he was hopeful an agreement with the Syrians could be worked out.

"We are moving ahead with the expectation that somehow or other, we're going to work this out."

Fahd, Assad discuss Lebanon

JEDDAH (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad met for more than 24 hours on a U.S.-sponsored plan for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

It was their third meeting within 24 hours and diplomatic sources in the Gulf said it emphasised the powerful role the kingdom could play in the Middle East.

The Saudi Press Agency said only that the talks were attended by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz and Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Syria's acceptance of the

American-sponsored plan is vital. Israel, which has approved it in principle, has made it clear it will not withdraw its troops unless Syrian forces and those of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leave too.

Syria, however, has denounced it as a contract of submission and a senior Syrian minister was quoted Sunday as saying his country would work against the proposed pact.

Diplomats in the Syrian capital have said the Saudi attitude could be crucial. But the kingdom, which has long had a moderating influence in Arab politics, has

been noncommittal.

Mr. Assad, apparently seeking Saudi support for his country's position, arrived in Jeddah Sunday only hours after U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left after briefing Saudi leaders on the plan.

Few details emerged on the talks, but the Saudi agency quoted Mr. Shultz as saying that Saudi Arabia shared Washington's concern that all foreign forces should withdraw from Lebanon.

Commenting on what they said was concerted Saudi diplomacy,

(Continued on page 3)

Swedish navy ready for long hunt for subs

SUNDSVALL, Sweden (R) — The Swedish navy, convinced that at least two foreign submarines are intruding off this northern port, is prepared for a long hunt to catch them, a defence staff spokesman said Monday.

"We are not getting tired and time is on our side," he said as the hunt with ships and helicopters went into its 12th day.

He declined to comment on press reports that a conventional-size "mother" submarine trying to make contact with a trapped smaller submarine inside the bay was the target of heavy depth charging by the navy on Saturday. The attack apparently produced no result.

NATO says Andropov proposals first step

BRUSSELS (R) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Secretary-General Joseph Luns Monday described Soviet leader Yuri Andropov's latest arms control offer as a positive first step that may help unblock the Geneva talks on medium-range missiles.

But, he said in an interview with a French radio programme, that the Soviet attitude could be better assessed at the Soviet-American talks on medium-range missiles.

The Andropov offer to count the number of warheads, as well as missiles, is expected to be translated into detailed proposals when the deadlocked talks resume on May 17.

"It is like the dance of the seven veils. Only the first veil has so far been torn," he said.

Soviet families leave Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Eighty-seven wives and children of Soviet diplomats left Beirut Monday for Moscow on a special flight. Lebanese security sources and airport officials said.

Soviet diplomats told reporters they were leaving because the embassy school term was over. But a right-wing Lebanese radio station suggested the departure may be connected with tension between Syrian and Israeli forces.

(Continued on page 3)

Israel plans new settlements

AMMAN (Petra) — Israel plans to build nine new settlements south of the Hebron mountains in the occupied West Bank, Radio Israel said Monday. Three of the new settlements will serve as "military positions," while the other six will be permanent settlements, the radio said.

The head of the settlement department in the World Zionist Organisation said the organisation will present Israel's ministerial committee for settlements plans for establishing the nine settlements within two weeks.

These settlements are part of a

comprehensive settlement plan in the occupied West Bank to increase the number of settlers there to 100,000 until 1987, the radio quoted him as saying.

Also, the head of the settlement department at the Jewish Agency for Settlement told reporters that the agency had provided the Israeli government with a four-year settlement plan on the occupied West Bank providing for the establishment of 57 settlements. He added that the agency expects to raise the number of Jewish settlers on the West Bank to 1,300,000 in 30 years.

'Soviets will hit back hard at attackers'

MOSCOW (R) — Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov said Monday the Soviet Union was ready to hit back hard if attacked and destroy its opponents.

Writing in the Communist Party daily Pravda, the politburo member said Moscow had great military strength but that this was necessary to counter a growing threat from the United States and its allies.

"Any attempt at an act of aggression against our country would be rebuffed most resolutely by the

armed forces of the USSR and by the entire Soviet people and it would prove fatal for its initiators," he warned.

"Retribution would invariably hit the aggressor without any delay."

In his article, marking the 38th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, Mr. Ustinov drew parallels between the 1940's and today.

The Soviet Union showed itself able to defeat "imperialism" when it beat Nazi Germany, he said.

In another anniversary article, the commander of the Warsaw Pact forces, Marshal Viktor Kulikov, accused the United States of preparing for a world war.

The U.S. was involved in a massive military build-up and planning unprecedented defence budgets for the next five years, Marshal Kulikov said.

"This is not just irresponsibility any longer. This is not even brinkmanship. This is counting on a world war," the marshal wrote in the trade union daily Trud.

Sharon criticises plan for Lebanon withdrawal

LIBERTY, New York (R) — Former Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon said Sunday Israel had made "dangerous concessions" in the U.S.-arranged accord to pull out troops from Lebanon.

"The agreement that we have reached does not secure the elimination of PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) ... in Lebanon," he told a press conference.

Mr. Sharon, the architect of Israel's invasion of Lebanon last year and now a minister without portfolio, said: "We made dangerous concessions in order to make the agreement."

But he avoided any criticism of his successor as defence minister, Moshe Arens.

Libya frees 4 W. Germans

BONN (R) — Libya has freed four West Germans serving long prison terms after West Germany deported a Libyan jailed for life for the killing of a former Libyan diplomat, a Bonn government spokesman said Sunday.

The prisoner swap apparently left eight West Germans, arrested last month on espionage charges, still in the hands of the Libyan authorities.

Spokesman Juergen Sudhoff said Elmida Bashir Elmida, 29, who shot a former second secretary at the Libyan embassy, Omran Mehawi, in a Bonn subway in 1980, was deported Sunday.

Simultaneously, the four West Germans flew to freedom.

Mr. Sudhoff said they were in poor health after being held for several years in "the most difficult prison conditions." He did not say for what offences they had been convicted.

He said Bonn decided to deport Mr. Elmida on humanitarian grounds, for the sake of the four

long-term convicts and other West Germans being held in Libya.

The Mehawi killing was one of a series of murders of Libyan dissidents in Europe.

A Libyan doctor and student are at present on trial in Bonn for torturing two dissident Libyan students in an embassy residence in Bonn last year.

The West German media has speculated that the eight Germans, whose arrest was announced by the Libya last month, were taken hostage in an attempt to force the release of this pair.

Juergen Moellmann, minister of state at the Bonn Foreign Ministry, discussed the fate of the arrested Germans with Libyan officials in Tripoli last month and later announced that their conditions of custody had been improved.

Mr. Sudhoff said Sunday's release was the first positive result of Mr. Moellmann's efforts and Bonn would continue to press for the earliest possible release of those still in detention.

PLO rejects Lebanon agreement

DAMASCUS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has rejected a U.S.-sponsored draft accord for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, a senior PLO official said Monday.

Abdul Mohsen Abu Maizer, spokesman for the PLO Executive Committee, told reporters a meeting of the committee chaired by Yasser Arafat, the organisation's chief, had decided to reject and condemn the agreement after conducting a thorough study of it.

Mr. Abu Maizer said the PLO decided the agreement, which has not been officially published, denied Lebanese sovereignty and did not amount to an unconditional Israeli withdrawal.

"It seriously and directly infringes the Palestinian cause and Arab security," he added.

Mr. Abu Maizer said the PLO had not been contacted by Lebanon or the U.S. over the Israeli-Lebanese agreement.

"The PLO warns the Lebanese government against defining the border with Israel because those who are legally entitled to define the border are the Palestinian people and not the Zionist usurper," Mr. Abu Maizer said.

Lebanon was the PLO's main base for attacks against Israel until most of its fighters were withdrawn after the Israeli invasion.

Mr. Abu Maizer said the PLO also called on all Arab states to reject the agreement.

Syria has objected strongly to the accord. President Hafez Al Assad told Mr. Shultz on Saturday that Syria demanded an unconditional Israeli withdrawal before it would pull out its own forces.

The government-controlled

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FEATURES

English spirit of adventure is still alive...

By Clare Fallon
 Reuter

LONDON — The traditional eccentric English adventurer is alive and well and searching for more and more bizarre challenges.

One hundred years ago, his Victorian forbears still had "darkest" Africa and other mysterious lands to explore. But now, with most of the world charted, adventures are harder to find.

That does not stop the English from trying, however. Currently, a mountaineer is in a solo walk to the north pole, two brothers are running 2,500 miles (4,000 kilometres) along the Himalayas, a 24-year-old man is flying a microlight aircraft to Zimbabwe and a merchant seaman is preparing to sail to the Soviet Union in a luxury bathtub.

"We seem to have built into us,

a strange streak of masochism," British explorer Lt-col. John Blashford-Snell told reporters after leading an expedition down the Zaire River in Africa in 1976.

"The easier life becomes for people — particularly young people — the more determined they become to pit themselves against hardships and danger."

David Hempleman-Adams, 26, who set out this month to make the first solo walk to the north pole, had already climbed Mount Everest, the world's highest peak. Mr. Hempleman-Adams, from Bristol in south-west England, practised for his latest adventure by camping in a commercial freezer in temperatures as low as minus 40 degrees centigrade.

Brothers Adrian and Richard Crane, from Cumbria in north-west England, have set themselves

a target of 100 days to run the 2,500-mile length of the Himalayas, running 25 miles (40 kilometres) a day, in aid of a Third World charity.

Adrian, 27, a geologist, and 29-year-old Richard, a computer consultant, are at an average height of 12,000 feet (3,600 metres). Himalayan experts have described their run as "lunatic".

Economics graduate Philip Berent, 24, from London, has set out to beat the microlight flight record by flying 11,000 miles (17,000 kilometres) to Zimbabwe in a 275-pound (125-kilo) aircraft powered by a 330 cc motor, smaller than some motorcycle engines.

Merchant seaman William Neal, 22, is hoping to sail his luxury bathtub fitted with an outboard motor from London to Leningrad this summer.

The sea often attracts British adventurers. Forklift truck driver Martin Lewis, 45, has been warned by police that he will be arrested if he tries another channel crossing after two attempts in 1980 when he had to be rescued by coastguards.

Mr. Lewis, from Eastbourne on England's south coast, was doing the backstroke, supported by an inflated car tyre inner tube and towing his belongings in a plastic bag. He had a bicycle lamp flashing from the top of a pole and a packet of sausage sandwiches strapped to his waist.

Ted McNamara — not an Englishman but a Scot — tried three times to set sail for the United States from south-west England in a barrel. Each time the 62-year-old stoneworker was washed back on to the shore. Finally, he gave up and burnt his barrel on the beach.

Journalist Ken Crutchlow, from London, succeeded in his adventure. In 1968, at the age of 24, he hitchhiked around the world in 97 days to win a pint of beer in a bet.

Throughout the 24,000-mile (39,000 kilometre) journey, he wore the traditional outfit of a London businessman — pin-striped suit and bowler hat with a rolled umbrella in his hand.

One of the greatest recent British adventures was the transglobe expedition in which Baronet Sir Ranulph Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes and Dr. Charles Burton circumnavigated the globe from north to south, visiting both poles.

Britain's heir to the throne, Prince Charles, patron of the three-year expedition which ended last summer, described the two men as

"gloriously mad". Dr. Burton told Reuters: "To outsiders who were not going to do the trip and wouldn't want to be must have seemed mad, but it was the challenge that appealed to us".

"The British spirit of adventure has been around for a long time but at this particular moment the expeditions do seem to be getting rather weird."

That spirit shows no signs of fading. Last year, the Royal Geographical Society, which vets scientific expeditions, reported a sharp increase in applications for support.

It approved 63 expeditions to 45 countries, including one led by a London man to assess "the threat of goats to the tortoise population" of the Seychelles Islands. Odd, although scientifically valid.

Gold is still sought in southern ocean

By Sharyn Steel
 Reuter

WELLINGTON — Tales of lost gold in the wild seas of the southern ocean are luring a fresh band of bounty hunters to the spot where an American treasure ship sank more than 100 years ago.

At least 10 people have died trying to find the wreck of the windjammer General Grant which foundered off Auckland Island 200 miles south of the southern tip of New Zealand in 1866 carrying a full cargo from the Australian goldfields to England.

Diver Kelly Tarlton says he thinks he knows where a board of gold reputed to be worth billions of dollars is lying and after taking part in one abortive attempt eight years ago, he is preparing to mount a new expedition in some of the world's wildest seas to recover it.

Tarlton has just spent an entire southern summer waiting for a break in the weather to return to the grave of the General Grant. But the onset of winter and the westerly storms that howl across the ocean have forced him to delay his attempt for a few more months.

"This time I'll stay there till I find it. I now have pretty strong evidence as to where the General Grant went down," the New Zealand diver said.

Only 15 people survived when a storm sent the General Grant careering towards a gaping cavern in the rocky cliffs of Auckland Island. The captain and 68 passengers were lost with the ship.

The survivors reached nearby

one match. One died on the island and four perished trying to sail to New Zealand. The remaining 10 lived mainly on seal flesh until they were rescued by a sealing boat more than a year later.

Among the passengers were gold prospectors returning home with treasure stuffed in pockets and bags. According to the ship's manifest there were two boxes of gold on board that would be worth more than \$1 million at today's prices.

But stories have persisted down the years that the ship was carrying much more gold than officially listed. Salvage hunters say the miners labelled their booty as other merchandise before it was put in the hold.

Some claim that nine tons of spelter — impure zinc — listed in the General Grant's manifest was really gold.

Tarlton has spent years researching the background to the last voyage of the General Grant, mainly in the United States and Australia. He believes the gold has never been found because survivors of the wreck gave misleading accounts of where the ship went down.

He also dismisses rumours that another American sailing ship slipped into the uninhabited island at the turn of the century and salvaged the General Grant's gold.

Two of the windjammer's survivors returned to Auckland Island and in separate but futile efforts to find the gold. Other expeditions never found the cavern where the ship is said to have sunk.

Tarlton was a member of a 1975 search party that checked out all 80 caves and inlets on the treacherous west coast of the island.

... and the French do not lag far behind either

By Elizabeth Hawley
 Reuter

KATHMANDU — Four French climbers will jump off the top of a 7,710-metre mountain in Nepal and will land 3,000 metres lower down some 15 minutes later.

It will have taken the mountaineers, now nearing the summit of the eastern Himalayan mountain of Jannu, one month to reach the peak before their rapid descent.

Team member Pascal Sombarrier said before they began their assault that parachute des-

cents had been performed in the Alps.

"We want to prove it is possible in the Himalayas," said Sombarrier, a 29-year-old mountaineering magazine reporter from Grenoble.

The four planning the parachute descent are among a team of eight French Alpinists led by Grenoble civil engineer Henri Sigayret, 49, who left here on March 15.

The eight, aided by two Nepalese Sherpas, reached their base camp at the foot of Jannu's south-west ridge at 4,500 metres. By April 8 they had pitched

their second high-altitude camp at 5,500 metres, according to the latest news of their progress.

They were planning a total of five or six camps with the highest at 7,100 metres before being in position for their final push to the summit and then their dramatic descent.

Sigayret, Sombarrier and two other team members are hoping to reach base camp on their parachute descent.

The other two are Jean-Noel Roche, a 33-year-old mountain guide from Lanslevillard, and Roger Fillon, 31, a postman from

Sciez-St Oervais. The other four members are planning to make a conventional descent from the summit.

It was Fillon who proved parachute descents were possible in the Alps. He claims to have been the first person to jump from a high summit when he parachuted from the 4,800 metre top of Mont Blanc to Chamonix in the valley below in 20 minutes last September.

No one else had made a similar descent when he and the Jannu team arrived in Nepal in early March.

Sombarrier said before setting out from Kathmandu that they expected the parachute descent from the Jannu summit to base camp might take only 15 minutes because the air was significantly thinner at higher altitudes.

But he was not certain it would be possible to parachute all the way to base camp.

"We do not know the problems of altitude and wind," he explained.

They could not even be certain of reaching Jannu's summit because they had chosen a technically difficult route, much of it used successfully by only one previous

expedition, a Czechoslovak team two years ago.

The French want to climb the same southwest ridge by a more direct and thus even more difficult route than that followed by the Czechoslovaks.

The difficulties mean they may have to start their jump from a high-altitude camp instead of the top of the mountain.

When they make their descent they will be hanging from nylon parachutes weighing only three kilograms. When packed the parachutes are no more bulky than sleeping bags.

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NEWS

Asfour sees ECWA chiefs over cooperation

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour met here Sunday a number of delegation heads participating in the Economic Commission for Western Asia's (ECWA) tenth meeting.

Mr. Asfour discussed with the heads ways of increasing the volume of trade and of promoting economic cooperation between Jordan and other ECWA members. The delegation heads expressed appreciation of Jordan's economic achievements, which has earned the country the respect and admiration of the world.

Mr. Asfour met Saturday Iraqi Member of the Revolutionary

Council and Minister of Trade Hassan Ali, and discussed with him the basis for boosting economic cooperation between Jordan and Iraq. Mr. Asfour emphasised Jordan's national stand in support of the defence of Iraq and sovereignty against Iranian aggression.

Mr. Ali stressed that Iraq greatly appreciates Jordan's fraternal stand and is doing all it can to strengthen and increase cooperation with Jordan in all spheres of activity, and particularly in the economic field. In this respect, Mr. Ali asserted, Iraq is eager to boost the volume of trade exchanged between the two countries.

Anani off to Islamic science meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Jawad Al Anani Sunday departed at the head of a Jordanian delegation to the science and technology conference organised by Islamic Conference (IC) Science and Technology Committee in Isma'il.

Dr. Anani will deputise for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent in delivering a speech to the conference.

Prince Hassan had played a major role in the setting up of the

IC Science and Technology Committee, chaired by Pakistani President Zia Ul Haq. Dr. Anani said prior to his departure.

The four-day meeting will discuss issues related to the establishment of a programme to facilitate the use of advanced technology and advanced research among Muslim communities, Dr. Anani added.

He said that he is scheduled to explain Jordan's policies in this field, and the role of specialised bodies and institutions in Jordan.

CAEU head praises King

AMMAN (Petra) — Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary-General Dr. Mahdi Al 'Obeidi gave a press conference here Monday on the council's activities over the past 18 years and its future programmes.

Mr. 'Obeidi paid tribute to the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein in supporting common Arab economic action, and expressed his appreciation to Jordan for both being host to the CAEU headquarters and for facilitating the

implementation of all the council's agreements.

Mr. 'Obeidi also spoke about the CAEU's role in supporting the Palestinian economy. The CAEU has established the Palestine Statistical Office which played a key role in assessing the economic conditions of the Palestinian people, and has drawn up analytical studies of the Palestinian economy in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

NCC debates customs duty

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Consultative Council (NCC) discussed in its Monday session, chaired by NCC Speaker Suleiman Arar, article 166 onwards of the 1983 draft customs law.

The council also heard the government's answers to questions and proposals from NCC members on the opening of a permanent office of the Department of Statistics in the Karak Governorate, and on courts in Jordan.

The NCC meeting, attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and other cabinet ministers, also considered a proposal presented by ten NCC members for the preparation of a comprehensive cost effective study of hulleins, magazines and books published by the government departments.

The NCC then approved 12 new articles related to the exemption of imports of the Jordanian Armed Forces to customs fees.

Article 168 also provides for the exemption from duty of JD 50-worth of goods carried by passengers as personal presents, in addition to an allocation of 200 cigarettes.

Swieleh phone lines destroyed

AMMAN (Petra) — Director-General of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Mohammed Shahid Isma'il Sunday said that bulldozers and machinery belonging to the contractor for the Swieleh interchange road operating opposite the University of Jordan Hospital had totally destroyed the main contact line linking the Swieleh electronic exchange with its counterpart in Abdali.

The incident has resulted in subscribers to both exchanges being completely cut-off. Mr. Isma'il added.

Mr. Isma'il assured that TCC repairmen are doing their best to make good the damage in the shortest time possible.

Jordan marks Al Isra' Wal Mi'raj day today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Court has received several cables of good wishes to His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on the anniversary of Al Isra' Wal Mi'raj that marks the Prophet Mohammad's nocturnal journey to Jerusalem and his ascension to and return from heaven.

The cables came from senior government officials including Prime Minister Mudar Badran, the chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi, Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh and the directors of the Civil Defence, Public Security and Intelligence Departments, as well as Army Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb.

The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs announced that it will hold a special religious ceremony in Amman Tuesday to mark the feast.

Meanwhile, Amman Governor Yahya Al Mousili issued instructions ordering all liquor stores, nightclubs and bars to be closed in Amman and its suburbs from Monday afternoon until Wednesday morning.

Monday a religious festival was held at the Great Hussein Mosque to mark the holy occasion and the occasion was addressed by the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kamel Al Sharif. Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Mr. Sharif called for the appropriate lessons to be drawn from the holy occasion. He pointed out that the Israeli conspiracy against Jerusalem will not go unpunished, and added that all mankind will pay a high price if it does not give enough attention and respond actively to Israel's violations in the holy city and the occupied Arab territories.

Eximbank chief arrives

AMMAN (J.T.) — William H. Draper III, president and chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, arrived in Amman Monday afternoon for talks on the promotion of economic relations between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

During his three-day visit, Mr. Draper will hold discussions with senior Jordanian officials, including representatives from the Central Bank of Jordan, the Ministry of Finance, the National Planning Council and the Jordan Valley Authority in the fields of development and economic planning.

Mr. Draper was nominated by President Reagan as president and chairman of Eximbank and was confirmed in this post by the U.S. Senate on July 3, 1981. Prior to joining Eximbank, Mr. Draper helped organize and finance high technology manufacturing com-



New airport to commence full operations May 26

AMMAN (J.T.) — The new Queen Alia International Airport is to begin full passenger operations from noon May 26, it has been announced by Ministry of Transport Under-Secretary Hashem Al Taher.

Mr. Taher was speaking after a meeting of the airport preparatory committee, comprising representatives from the Civil Aviation Authority, Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline and the ministry, which Sunday discussed arrangements for the inauguration of the new airport.

Mr. Taher also said that, prior to the opening, May 15 and 18 have been set aside for Alia to simulate two flights on each day in order to test the airport facilities, and to familiarise ground staff with their operation.

Mr. Taher went on to say that the new airport had been provided with the most modern operational systems used in international airports. Part of which will include an advanced telephone exchange system that operates 2,000 lines, Mr. Taher pointed out.

The airport has also been provided with 24 telex machines, in addition to 60 other channels linked directly with the Telecommunications Corporation for use by Arab and foreign companies and institutions in Jordan, Mr. Taher concluded.

Archbishop issues call for tolerance

AMMAN (Petra) — The Christian community in Jordan held its Easter celebrations Sunday though the marking of the occasion was restricted to religious services due to prevailing conditions in the Arab World.

Roman Catholic Archbishop Salm Al Sa'igh in a mass attended by a large number of people, called for "tolerance, love among peoples," and prayed for peace to prevail in the region.

Cabinet makes airport road limited in access

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet has decided to consider the Queen Alia International Airport road from the Seventh and Eighth Circles to the airport a limited access road, it was reported in Al Ra'i newspaper Monday.

In addition, the land up to a distance of 12 metres either side of the road must not be used for construction purposes or have its character altered the cabinet said.

The cabinet has also proscribed any new tributary roads from serving the main road unless provided for by the original plans for the road.

According to the cabinet decision, the Ministry of Lands in the Ministry of Finance will have the authority to carry out compulsory purchases in order to build the planned service roads adjacent to the main highway.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran presided over the cabinet meeting which discussed various aspects related to the new airport highway with regard to its complementary roads, junctions, the planting of trees on both sides of the highway, and the organisational and structural plans.

Fahd, Assad hold talks on Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

Saudi newspapers, which sometimes reflect official thinking, said the kingdom was determined to make all efforts to secure an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and all Arab territories.

Israel demands Cohen's body

Israel has asked Syria to return the body of its most famous spy, Eli Cohen, who was active in Syria during the early 1960s, Israeli officials said in Tel Aviv Monday.

Local newspaper reports said Israel was seeking Mr. Cohen's body as well as those of Israeli sol-

diers killed in Lebanon as part of its agreement to withdraw from Lebanon.

"We have been asking for the return of Eli Cohen's body all along," an official told reporters without confirming it was part of the agreement.

Mr. Cohen infiltrated the Syrian hierarchy and passed back information which played a major role in the 1967 Middle East war. He was exposed and hanged in 1965.

Israel accepted an agreement to withdraw from Lebanon last Friday but has said it will not be implemented until the Syrians and Palestinians return Israeli pri-

soners of war, the bodies of dead soldiers and provide information on the missing.

The Israeli official said Monday the Red Cross was conducting highly sensitive negotiations on an exchange of prisoners of war.

U.S. special envoy Philip Habib met Israeli officials Monday to clear up details of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, worked out by U.S. Secretary of State Mr. George Shultz.

Israeli officials said Mr. Habib was tackling clarifications Israel sought. He is expected to go to Beirut Tuesday.

Sharon criticises Lebanon agreement

(Continued from page 1)

and 50,000 and the PLO between 6,000 and 8,000.

Mr. Sharon said he believed the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations on the withdrawal accord should also have involved Syria and the PLO. "It was a mistake not to negotiate in parallel with the Syrians

and the PLO through intermediaries... then we would not have found ourselves in this strange situation," he said, apparently referring to Syria's opposition to the agreement.

In a speech to the Emunah Women of America, a conservative Zionist organisation which supports social services in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, he also said Israel would never

fully relinquish control of the area. "There are many people who would like to see Israel a small, tiny country, obedient and nice," he said. "It's impossible... we don't have to please anyone."

He appealed to the women's group to encourage more American Jews to settle in the West Bank, saying: "We have to hurry. We have to establish more settlements."

Thatcher sets elections

(Continued from page 1)

towards radical socialist policies and formed the Social Democratic Party, now in alliance with the Liberals, and were later joined by one Conservative.

The government now has a majority of 36 in parliament, where the present state of the parties is:

Conservative—334
Labour—239
Social Democrat—29
Liberal—13
Others—17
Speaker one
Two seats are vacant after des-

ths. The election will be for an enlarged 650-seat chamber.

Conservatives favourites

Bookmakers made the Conservative Party overwhelming favourite to retain power in the general election on June 9.

The William Hill Organisation quoted the Conservatives odds-on at 1/4, with the Labour Party 5/2 and the centrist alliance of Liberals and Social Democrats outsiders at 33/1.

Mecca bookmakers offered the Conservatives at more prohibitive odds of 1/5, Labour at 7/2 and the alliance 16/1.

PLO rejects pullout plan

(Continued from page 1)

Syrian media Monday kept up a furious campaign against the Israeli-Lebanese deal.

The newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, Al Baath, said Syria had "frozen" the Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt by its objections and had managed to thwart President Reagan's Middle East peace plan.

"So are we able today to freeze this initiative called the Shultz accord," the paper said. Syria could not allow Lebanon to become "an Israeli-American protectorate," it said.

GCC holds discussions

(Continued from page 1)

mooth launched a fresh initiative to end the fighting by sending an envoy to Moscow and Washington. Details of the plan have not been revealed.

Crucial to any agreement on capping the Iranian wells, which have been spewing between 2,000 and 8,000 barrels of oil daily into the Gulf for more than two months, is an agreement on their repair by Iran and Iraq.

Soviet families leave Beirut

(Continued from page 1)

The Lebanese sources and officials said 39 women and 48 children left on an unscheduled Aeroflot flight.

Fabrizio Radio, whose reports have often proved inaccurate in the past, said Moscow had ordered its diplomats and their families to leave Lebanon immediately and those in Jordan and Syria to get out within 48 hours.

The radio said it was not known

how far the move was connected with tension in Lebanon, where Israeli and Syrian forces are deployed, following Syria's rejection of a U.S. plan to get foreign troops out of the country.

There was no sign that any Soviet diplomats had left Beirut, or that any Soviet citizens were leaving Amman or Damascus.

In Amman, Soviet diplomatic sources said the radio report was totally untrue.

TIME THIS WEEK

BEHIND THE FAKE HITLER DIARIES (Story of a scam-Time's cover)
CONCESSION OR PROPAGANDA? (What's behind the Andropov letter?)
A FRAGILE AGREEMENT IN LEBANON (But will the Syrians go along?)

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Decade number seven, and counting

By Rami G. Khouri

I am sure that most of you, like myself, have been following the saga of the sewerage system that has been in the process of being installed throughout Amman during the past two years. All of us obviously applaud the installation of a new sewerage network in Amman, for reasons of sanitation, water conservation and convenience. But all of us have also suffered from the annoying side-effects of the installation of the system. More precisely, I think it is important that the performance of the contractors and sub-contractors who have done the actual installation work be examined very closely and in a very public manner, along with the work of those government agencies responsible for the system.

I should make it clear that I don't have the slightest idea of who the contractors are, or who the government agencies are whose performance should be examined. There are probably several agencies with separate areas of res-

ponsibility, and several contractors as well. What I do know, however, is that I have been watching the sewerage system being installed for many months, and I suspect that the level of carelessness and/or incompetence that has been displayed should not go undiscussed. Again, I say that I do not wish to attack any person, company or public agency. For all I know, one of the sewerage contractors is my cousin, in which case I shall be in considerable trouble. But never mind. The beauty of strong extended families is that they always triumph over temporary discord.

Rather, I am criticizing the overall system that allows strange things to happen. I find it strange that open ditches are left unmarked, and I find it funny that every few days or nights a brand new car will drive into one of the ditches, making a drive around Amman something like a voyage through a Donald Duck cartoon,

with the back ends of cars sticking out of the earth.

I find it strange that two days after a sewerage line is installed and the road is repaved, cracks start appearing in the new road surface. After the first rain, large chunks of the repaved surface collapse into the earth, leaving gaping holes where once a road used to reside. That part of the road is out of service for a few days, until a crew comes and plugs up the craters. Several weeks later, another road crew comes and resurfaces the entire stretch of collapsed road where the sewerage line was installed. By this time, everything is fine. The sewerage line is installed, the road is functional and all cars are back on the street. But at what expense?

It seems to me that a very straightforward task of installing sewerage lines has been transformed into a model of inefficiency, public bazaar, inconvenience and wasted public funds. If, in the first in-

stance, the contractor who installed the sewerage line would have taken the trouble to properly backfill the earth on top of the line, moisten it and compact it according to accepted international standards modified to local conditions of soil, climate and whatever else may pertain, and repave the road surface in a manner that takes into consideration the underlying sewerage system, we could talk of the efficiency of our sewerage installations as we talk proudly of our weather.

If this were done, the public would not have to suffer the inconvenience and danger of cratered roads, the government agencies involved and the contractors would not have to suffer the wrath of an exhausted and perplexed citizenry, and the budget of the state would not have to suffer the strain of paying twice to pave a road that should have only been paved once, and properly, the first time.

Are Jordanian engineers,

contractors and public agencies unable to master the technicalities of laying sewerage lines and repaving the roads above them? I doubt it. Jordanians have done far more complex things without difficulty. What, then, is the problem? Are the contractors cheating on specifications? Are the government agencies responsible for supervising the work understaffed and unable to supervise properly? Are any parties deriving benefits from the laxity of the entire situation?

I don't know the answers to these awkward questions, but I feel it is appropriate for a country entering its seventh decade of statehood to start formulating procedures of public accountability by which such strange things could not happen over and over again. Isn't it ironic that water conveyance systems and roads installed by the Nabataeans some 2000 years ago are, in some cases, still operational, while some

contemporary public works installed a few months ago have already collapsed? Did the Nabataeans have better engineers, or simply a better system of accountability that did not put up with carelessness or inefficiency?

I offer the example of the sewerage system installation simply because it is so visible, and so shocking. There are many other similar instances that one could cite. But where is the self-correcting mechanism within the Jordanian system to give us hope that such waste and laxity will not be multiplied many times over?

This is, ultimately, a political and not a technical problem. If we can perform open-heart surgery, we can properly repave the roads after we install sewerage lines. But why don't we? And why don't our public officials and institutions deal with the problem more emphatically? Or is this a matter for the eighth decade of statehood?

Syrian politics and the Lebanese scapegoat

IT is not difficult to understand why Syria has rejected the Lebanon-Israel draft agreement on the withdrawal of non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. However, the important question now is what it will take to get the Syrians to change their mind.

Granted, we cannot see to what extent the implementation of the accord will affect Syria's security and interests—not in Syrian eyes, anyway.

If, however, it is only the presence of 50 Israeli soldiers in South Lebanon that is bothering the Syrians, we do not see how Damascus cannot negotiate with the Lebanese government on the presence of many times that number of Syrian soldiers remaining elsewhere in Lebanon and win such a deal in the end.

But this can hardly be the problem. First of all, the Syrians were not going to ratify instantly an agreement that was wrung out by the U.S., and accepted by Israel—definitely not after one brief visit to Damascus by the American secretary of state, Mr. Shultz. Secondly, the Syrians were not going to let the presence of U.S. Marines in Beirut be taken for granted. And if they did, the Soviets most probably would not like it. Thirdly, the Syrian regime would not have wanted to open the door even wider for American diplomacy to achieve unilateral successes in the Middle East, and away from Soviet and Arab radical influence.

Add to all this the newly-gained confidence in Damascus that Syria is in a much better position militarily to confront Israel than during last summer, and you would have Syria not only reject the Lebanon-Israel draft agreement but also vow to do everything in its power to oppose it.

What next, then? The results of President Assad's ongoing talks with King Fahd in Saudi Arabia are going to be crucial. But the most likely scenario is that the Syrian president would insist on Arab guarantees, particularly from the Saudis, that his country would play an even bigger role in Middle East politics if the Syrians were to order a troop withdrawal from Lebanon today or soon.

If a new Syrian-Israeli military confrontation is ruled out by Damascus, Syria would want to ensure its continued presence, and the principal role it is seeking through playing the Palestinian card its own way. This would definitely not be America's, and the Reagan proposals of Sept. 1 would have to be sacrificed for another approach, in which the Soviet Union becomes more involved, on settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Not ideal, but all we have

ISRAEL'S Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir declared Sunday that his government is determined to implement the American-engineered Israeli-Lebanese agreement on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, despite Syria's rejection of that agreement. The Israeli position does not mean that the Begin government has become a lover of peace overnight, but that Israel wants to exploit the Syrian rejection for its own ends. For it is clear that Israel will only carry out the parts of the agreement that serve its own purposes and ensure the continued presence of its forces on Lebanese territory for as long as possible. Israel desperately wants to show the world that while it is concerned to establish peace, the Arabs are impeding such efforts in the region. We are not in a position to question the conditions that prompted Damascus to take this line, but we can say that such a stand will only result in a new phase in the Lebanese crisis: the consequences of which nobody can predict.

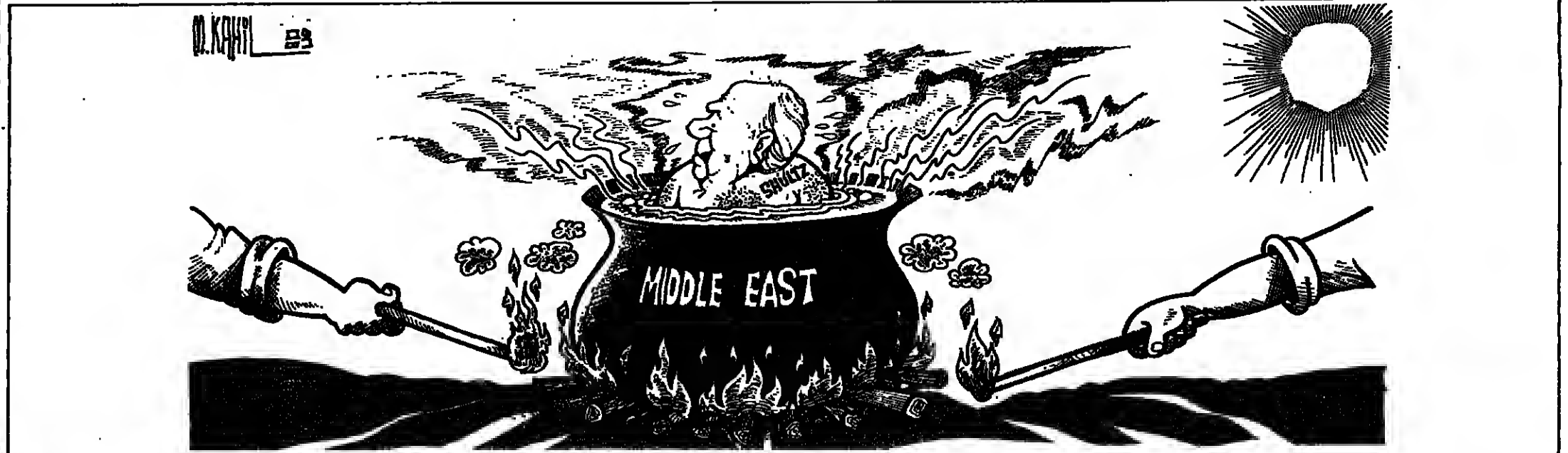
We admit that the Israeli-Lebanese agreement does not achieve what either Lebanon or the Arabs would ideally desire, but it certainly constitutes a practical step towards achieving peace and stability in Lebanon and perhaps the whole region. We agree that the ultimate goal should be the safeguarding of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, yet we must admit that we cannot attain this objective at once in the current circumstances nor by wishful thinking. Lebanon must be relieved of its sufferings while the Arabs should realise that it is they that will lose the sympathy of the international community if they allow Israel to convince world public opinion that it is the Arabs that are now obstructing the path of peace.

Al Dustour: Syria's position is dangerous

WE do not know yet what trump card Syria is holding in order to kill off the Israeli-Lebanese agreement on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. As Lebanon approves this agreement, we are surprised at Syria's opposition; a position in essence which confronts Lebanon. Whereas Israel expresses a willingness to implement the agreement and to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, Syria is now desperately trying to place obstacles in the path of the withdrawal as though it approves of Israel's continued occupation of that country. Israel and the American Secretary of State George Shultz now seem to have hit the bell into the Arab court and placed Syria in direct opposition both to Lebanon, and the other Arab states that are committed to seeing Lebanon once more a sovereign state.

Suppose Lebanon complained to the U.N. Security Council and requested a withdrawal of Syrian forces from its territory, what would Syria do? Would it be happy to appear as a country which has occupation forces on another country's territory? How indeed can Syria ask for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights when its own forces occupy another state?

Israel is certainly quite content with the Syrian position: it has declared to the world that it is willing to establish peace; it has mended its fences with the United States, and now is in a position to occupy at least part of southern Lebanon — on security pretexts — if the Syrians continue to oppose the implementation of the U.S.-sponsored agreement. It is true that the agreement grants Israel certain gains, but this is to be accepted as a natural result of a war which the Syrians, the Palestinians and Lebanese have lost. Lebanon is offering a relatively small sacrifice in order to gain the total liberation of its territory. It is hoped that Saudi Arabia will be able to persuade Syria to be realistic since its present attitude is fraught with danger.



Basque country offers Spain's Socialists major election victory

By Lito Carliio
Reader

BILBAO, SPAIN — The Basque country's decaying port city of Bilbao offers Spain's ruling Socialists the chance to make a major gain in their growing rivalry with regional nationalist parties.

The Socialists are the underdogs in this bastion of the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV), but see the chance of winning power here in the May 8 local elections, despite strained relations between Madrid and the region's autonomous government.

Socialist candidate Jose Luis Ibanez told Reuters that four years of "disastrous" local rule by the PNV could allow a Socialist-led coalition to capture this city of

400,000 people.

But the conservative PNV, which controls the regional parliament in Vitoria and the bulk of the Basque town halls, is banking on its appeal as the symbol of a centuries-long struggle for independence that has been punctuated by guerrilla gunfire since the mid-1960s.

Four years ago, in the first local elections since the 1936-39 civil war, left-wing coalitions took control of all major cities except Bilbao.

Since the Socialist landslide in last October's general elections, two strong regional parties rather than the rightist Popular Alliance, the leading opposition force nationally, have provided the major challenge to the left in the cities.

In Barcelona, Convergencia i Unio is challenging the Communist-supported government of Mayor Pascual Maragall on a platform of defending Catalonia's national identity.

In the Basque country, the PNV is the leading force followed by Herri Batasuna (HB), seen as the political arm of the separatist guerrilla group ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom).

PNV and HB leaders say hopes of better relations with Madrid have been dashed by the Socialists' failure to speed up the transfer of powers to the autonomous Basque government and a policy of increased police control to fight separatist violence.

"Convergencia i Unio and the PNV are the enemy because we

represent a concept of autonomy against the Socialists' centralist views," PNV candidate for mayor of Bilbao Jose Luis Robles said in an interview.

Robles, a merchant marine captain chosen to overturn the adverse tide threatening the current mayor, Jon Castanos, said Madrid still had to transfer about half the powers granted to Vitoria under 1980 statutes.

"If they don't give us what is ours by law, they cannot expect us to have arguments against October's 200,000 Herri Batasuna votes for armed separatist struggle," he added.

This attitude has led the Socialists to accuse the PNV of setting conditions for cooperating in the fight against ETA violence, which

claimed 42 lives in 1982 and also far this year.

HB leader Jon Idigoras agreed, telling Reuters: "ETA is the PNV's only hope. They use us to blackmail the central government."

The Socialists' Bilbao campaign is based on criticism of the city administration and the PNV's broader nationalist policies.

Opposition parties, citizens' groups and the local press agree the mayor has failed to deal with Bilbao's grave problems.

Unchecked growth under Franco turned Bilbao into a study in urban disaster, with insufficient services, high pollution and a traffic system on the verge of collapse.

The municipality's conservative cultural policy, almost exclusively geared to restoring the Basque language and folklore, has also provided the Socialists with ammunition in this liberal commercial and industrial port.

After harsh repression of Basque culture until Franco's death in 1975, only 10 per cent of the population speaks Euskera and positive discrimination is needed to enforce bilingualism, Robles said.

However, the PNV's appeal was demonstrated at an anniversary ceremony in nearby Guernica where Nazi planes killed 2,000 people on April 26, 1937. No Spanish flags were flying and one young Basque said: "For many people, it's still the enemy's flag."

India: Wider rift between central, state governments

By K.K. Sharma

Surrounded by followers in blue turbans and white robes, with religious "kirtans" (dances) slung over their shoulders, a 35-year-old Sikh lies languidly on his wooden bed in a small dark room in the famous golden temple in Amritsar.

Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala sports a flowing black beard and stares through piercing black eyes set in a gaunt face. "Anyone who accepts anything less than our demands will be punished by the faith — they will be done away with," he says.

The faithful who surround him nod in agreement with their militant leader. Bhindranwala has not left the temple for more than a year. Implicated in murders, raids on armories and armed attacks, the Sikh leader faces immediate arrest if he stirs out of his sanctuary in the holy city where gunbattles between Sikhs and paramilitary forces have already heightened tension.

Bhindranwala is an extremist. More moderate Sikh leaders are distressed and puzzled at the sudden violent turn that their three-year agitation for religious and political rights has taken.

Until two years ago, the occasional hijacking of Indian Airlines aircraft and Sikh-Hindu clashes were dismissed as merely the actions of cranks.

Organised protest

Now the Sikh protest is an organised, militant and bloody affair turning the strategically placed state of the Punjab, which borders Pakistan and is the granary of India, into yet another threat to the country's unity.

The growing strains on the country's federal set-up manifest themselves in armed insurrection, as in the Punjab; in communal violence, as in India's remote north-east state of Assam; and in the growth of regional parties which, in elections in two southern states — Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka — heavily defeated the ruling Congress (I) Party recently.

Earlier April, extremists among the Sikh leaders in Amritsar blocked moves to resume talks between the Indian government and the Akali Party — the political arm of the Sikhs — to discuss more autonomy for the Punjab.

The extremists, some of whom seek the creation of a "Khalistan" — homeland of the Sikhs — turned down a proposal from Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Indian prime minister, that Mr. Harbansingh Longowal, the Akali president, should visit New Delhi for the talks. Instead, they insisted that Mrs. Gandhi should come to Amritsar.

India's federal structure has been fragile ever since the trauma of partition in 1947. But the recent upsurge in regionalism is threatening to undermine not only Mrs. Indira Gandhi's standing as prime minister and head of the Congress (I), but also the ability of the central government effectively to rule over India's disparate 22 states.

The existence of separatist or regional movements based on caste, ethnic or religious causes is hardly surprising in a country of 22 states where 14 entirely different languages, excluding English, are spoken and officially recognised. Nearly all the states were originally formed on a linguistic basis. It is language, more than any other factor, which has proved to be divisive.

Ethnic, cultural and religious

differences among the 700 million people of India accentuate the enormous problems involved in keeping intact a country of its size and diversity. These provide ready ammunition for politicians who exploit and often exacerbate the emotions that each of these differences arouses.

Secessionist movements began soon after India became independent in 1947 when the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) openly preached an independent state of Madras. Even before independence, the former princely states of Hyderabad, Kashmir and Travancore preferred to continue as independent countries.

However, it is a matter of considerable pride to India's leaders that the country has up to now withstood many of the strains and challenges, albeit with increasing difficulty. In times of natural disasters or war — India has fought four wars in the last four decades — the communities have sunk their differences and demonstrated they can unite in crises.

This is mostly due to the personalities of the powerful leaders who have recognised the dangers of the divisive forces and committed themselves to protecting India's unity. Mrs. Gandhi, like her father, Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first prime minister, considers maintenance of the country's integrity as vital. Unlike her father, however, she faces new challenges in the form of strong regional and political groupings led by personalities with large followings of their own.

Rise of parties

The rise of powerful regional parties coincides with — and

many claim is due to — the disintegration of the Congress (I) Party as a national force. With the momentum of the freedom struggle gone, Mrs. Gandhi's Congress (I) appears to have lost its way and — the prime minister's critics claim — has been reduced to a vehicle for perpetuating the dynasty begun by her father.

Many regional Congress leaders blame the party's decline on Mrs. Gandhi's apparent choice of her elder son, Rajiv, as her successor. She denies this, and blames them for being corrupt and unresponsive to the voters' feelings. Whatever the truth, the party suffers, and this encourages the growth of regional power.

Until now the most ominous symptoms of this have been the armed insurrections in many of the remote north-east and the bloody communal strife being witnessed in Assam.

But last month four South Indian chief ministers who are not members of Mrs. Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) Party formed a regional council, bringing together Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. In Delhi Mrs. Gandhi's party reacted in virtual panic as if its southern opponents had declared war on India.

"If all chief ministers hold meetings like this it would be an extra-constitutional step," said Mr. C.M. Stephen, general secretary of Congress (I) and a close lieutenant of Mrs. Gandhi.

The move by the southern chief ministers jogged Mrs. Gandhi into hastily announcing the formation of a commission to inquire into relations between the central government and the states.

But the disease is proving contagious. In the northern state of Kashmir, which also borders Pakistan, the last Sheikh Mohammed

Abdullah's son, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, has been leading a similar move.

Dr. Abdullah says the chief ministers of northern states should form their own regional council. Kashmir is to hold elections to its legislature next month. Mrs. Gandhi's Congress (I) will contest every seat against Dr. Abdullah's National Conference Party.

His call has not received any response yet from other northern states which are ruled by the Congress (I). But a northern chief minister "trade union" could become a reality if Marxist West Bengal and the Punjab decide to respond positively.

However, in a surprise recent development, Dr. Abdullah called for an electoral agreement between his party and Mrs. Gandhi's Congress (I).

Nevertheless, there are all the ingredients of a confrontation which could have far-reaching effects on the structure of India's polity. The Indian constitutional lays down the areas in which the central and state governments function.

Reduced autonomy

Since all India's prime ministers have been supporters of a strong central government, the states complain that their autonomy has been steadily eroded over the years, making them embarrassingly dependent on the whims of the leaders and bureaucrats in New Delhi.

This has been done by the simple expedient of appropriating financial powers to the central government, often leaving the states to stand in line for their share of funds. These are disbursed under the terms of a formula prescribed every five years by suc-

cessive Finance Commissions. The states say that this has strengthened the centre's powers while diluting their own.

Two examples will illustrate this: first, the role of the planning commission — which has no constitutional status — in allocating the central government's assistance for development projects means all the chief ministers have to make an annual pilgrimage to New Delhi to quibble over relatively small amounts. Second, the states have no recourse to deficit finance — unlike the central government — as the Reserve Bank of India has been ordered not to allow them overdrafts.

Other irritants are the central government's jurisdiction over large contingents of the central reserve police, even though civil order is the responsibility of the states. New Delhi presides over the vital Central Bureau of Investigation and intelligence agencies.

Legal experts argue that the existing constitution does still allow a balanced relationship between New Delhi and state regimes. But this theoretical position does not take into account a whole host of central laws and administrative encroachments.

Much now depends on Mrs. Gandhi's new commission. And this in turn will be heavily influenced by her own attitude. Apart from wanting to maintain the central government's powerful position, she also faces a political challenge in the coming elections.

But she needs no reminding that the real strains which have already surfaced in Assam, Punjab, the north-east and now in the south, could crack the creaking federal structure conceived to keep a diverse sub-continent intact.

— Financial Times news feature

Exhibition reveals treasures of Islamic art to U.S.

By Grace Halsell

FORT WORTH, Texas — American people generally know little about Islam and Islamic art and an exhibition here on "Arts of the Islamic Book" will help rectify this lack of understanding and appreciation.

The exhibition from the private collection of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan opened originally in New York and has been on display for two months at Fort Worth's Kimbell Art Museum. "This is the first major collection of Islamic masterworks to come to the southwest United States," said Dr. Emily Sano, Kimbell Art Museum's Curator of Asian Art.

"The quality and range of the individual works are superb. Moreover, the selection makes it the finest exhibition of art from the Near Eastern tradition of religion and decoration ever to come to the Kimbell Art Museum," she added.

Internationally renowned for its size, breadth and quality, Prince Sadruddin's celebrated collection contains hundreds of examples of books, graphic arts, metalwork and pottery that testify to the richness of the visual inspired by Islam.

Visitors to the museum here see objects dating from the 9th to the 19th century, and they reflect the far-flung geographic extent of Islamic influence, with examples from North Africa, Spain, Ottoman Turkey, Iran and India. They focus upon the pictorial and calligraphic arts displayed in religious texts, as well as works of history, philosophy and literature. The exhibition's catalogue, written

by two Islamic scholars, Anthony Welch and Stuart Cary Welch, points out that it was the preeminence of the Qur'an in Muslim life that raised calligraphy to the highest form of art.

"The qalam, or reed pen, is said to have been the first of God's creation, and the Prophet's cousin and son-in-law, Ali, the first calligrapher," the authors of the catalogue write, adding, "It was the scribe who could perform the most pious of arts, the copying of God's words."

In addition to beautifully bound whole manuscripts, the exhibition here contains numerous single illustrated pages from other dispersed manuscripts that reflect indigenous cultural traditions. Examples from Iran cover the early period of Islamic art from the 13th to the 15th centuries, with the paintings from the Safavid period in the 16th and 17th centuries forming the majority.

Particularly notable are paintings from the Persian epic poem of the 10th century, the *Shahnameh* (Book of Kings) made in the 16th century for a great patron of painting, Shah Tahmasp (r. 1524-76), as well as pages from an incomplete *Shahnameh* made for his successor, Ismail II (r. 1576-77).

Paintings from India include important portraits of great Mogul leaders as well as illustrations of legends, poems and stories of Islamic and Hindu Origin.

One work that particularly caught this reporter's eye was a page from a Qur'an done in North Africa in the late 9th or early 10th century. Written in gold Kufic style of script on blue vellum, its

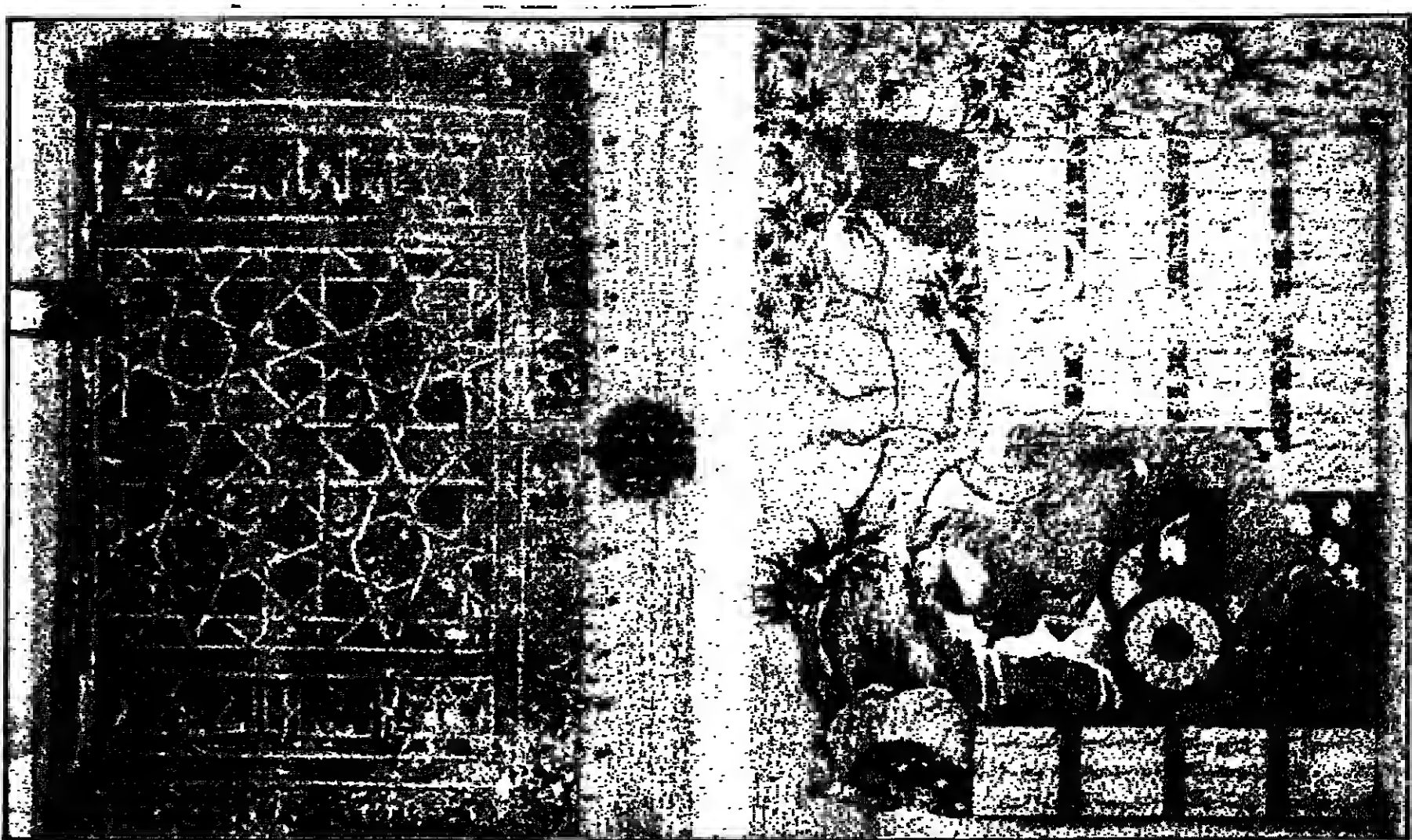
oblong horizontal format is characteristic of early Qur'ans, as is the lack of diacritical marks. Its sumptuousness makes it unlikely that this manuscript of Islam's central scripture was anything other than a royal production, made either for a caliph or as a caliph's donation to a major religious centre.

Other Muslim manuscripts represented include historical works such as the Ottoman illustrated manuscript of the *Tuhfat Ul Leta'if* philosophical treatises such as the *Ethics of Nasir Al-Din Tusi* of India and literary works such as the late 16th century *Anwar-i-Suhayli*, commissioned and probably illustrated by the leading Safavid Iranian painter Sadiqi Bek.

The exhibition also includes a few examples of pottery, long an area of particular interest to Prince Sadruddin. The prince who has had a distinguished career at the United Nations, including 12 years as High Commissioner for Refugees (1965-1977) began his collection in the early 1950s while he was a student at Harvard University.

Although some of the objects in the collection came from his parents, most of the pieces were assembled over 30 years by the prince himself. The collection is located in Geneva, Switzerland, and this show, organized by the Asia Society, New York, is the first attempt to give the collection a wide circulation.

The exhibition was selected by Anthony Welch, professor of Islamic art at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, and Stuart Cary Welch, senior lecturer in



Pages from an Indian Qur'an dated 1399 A.D. (left), and from a copy of the Persian epic Shahnameh, made in 1576-77 A.D.

fine arts at Harvard University and special consultant in charge of Islamic art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. The scholars, who are not related, also

produced the text for the catalogue that accompanies the exhibition.

— Arab News

Bahrain's history uncovered for December conference

By Barry Simpson
Reuter

BAHRAIN — Work has started here on uncovering and preserving a 4,000-year-old temple described as the greatest monument of the ancient Dilmun civilisation.

Two temples and later additions on the site, in the northwest of the island state of Bahrain, were first uncovered and charted by expeditions from 1953 to 1961, and then refilled to prevent pillage of the historic stonework.

But, as part of the preparations for a major conference on the history of Bahrain later this year, the entire site is being re-excavated to be preserved as an enduring monument to one of the world's oldest civilisations.

The work is being carried out by squads of bucket-and-spade wielding labourers under the supervision of two archaeologists, Brian Doe from Britain and Helmut Andersen from Denmark. Described by Mr. Andersen as the peak of the Dilmun civilisation's development, the temple is believed dedicated to one of three principal Sumerian deities — Enki, the water-dwelling god of wisdom.

The first structure on the site dates back to the early or middle part of the third millennium B.C. and the second, the major edifice, to the latter part of the same millennium, according to the two archaeologists.

Dr. Doe describes the second stage as being the principal temple at the time when the Dilmun people, believed to have come to Bahrain from Sumeria, were establishing an extensive trading network throughout the Gulf and the rest of the Middle East.

To the untrained eye, the site at present consists of little more than a random scattering of carved stone blocks and walls, of little apparent significance.

But the two archaeologists, armed with their charts of the temples and wealth of historical knowledge, bring the relics to life, as the entire project is intended to do.

The site is imposing dimensions. The still hidden outer walls enclose an area of several hundred square metres.

At its centre lie massive carved stone pillars, thought to have been brought by raft from the nearby island, marking the entrance and walls of a chamber containing an altar once flanked by copper-faced pillars.

To the east, still mostly covered, is another structure where the presence of blackened animal bones and charred earth suggested a chamber for sacrifices to the gods.

To the west of the central altar, a flight of carved steps leads down to Enki's pool, a deep, stone-walled well built over one of the numerous underground springs of which he was also the god and where he was supposed to live.

In these unique springs which still supply Bahrain with much of its drinking water, lie one of the cornerstones of the Dilmun civilisation.

With bounteous supplies of water from beneath the rock, Bahrain was in ancient times an oasis of fertility in an otherwise desolate region, giving rise to legend that it may even have been the Biblical Garden of Eden.

It was thus natural that the god ruling this vital source of water should be the principal deity of the Dilmun people.

"They must have had the idea that ancient Dilmun was blessed in a special way by Enki," Mr. Andersen says, explaining the reasons behind construction of what he calls a "grand temple".

But the temple site is not the only relic of the Dilmun era.

Further along the coast to the east is a site where archaeological expeditions have uncovered seven successive levels of settlements, from a 5,000-year-old Dilmun city to a 16th century Portuguese fort.

Further inland, some 100,000 ancient burial mounds constitute the world's biggest prehistoric graveyard.

These and more recent features of the Gulf state's history will all be highlighted in the December conference, "Bahrain through the ages," being staged to mark the 200th anniversary of the Al-Khalifa family's rule over the island.



An Ottoman official, 1650 A.D. (left) and a portrait by Persian artist Riza-yi Abbasi, 1625 A.D. (right)

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 — Koran
17:30 — Emergency
18:00 — Sports Billy
18:30 — Heidi
19:00 — Programme Review
19:30 — Programme on Sports
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:30 — Arabic Series
21:30 — Spotlights
22:10 — Arabic Series
22:30 — News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 — French Programme
19:00 — News in French
19:30 — News in Hebrew
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:30 — Movie of the Week: "Runaway"
21:00 — Des Johnson & Ed Nelson
22:10 — News in English
22:30 — Dallas

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& partly on 9560 KHz, SW

07:00 — Morning Show
07:30 — News Bulletin
08:00 — News Summary
08:30 — Morning Show
09:00 — News Summary
09:30 — News Summary
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BBC WORLD SERVICE

699, 726, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsday, 06:30 The Breakfast Show, 07:00 News Roundup, Reports, opinions, analyses, 17:30 VOA Magazine, 18:00 Special English News, 18:10 Special English Science and Technology, 18:15 Feature: Science in the News, 18:30 News Music, USA, 18:40 News Roundup, 19:30 Newsday, 20:00 Special English News, 20:15 Special English Report, 20:30 News Music, USA, 21:00 News Roundup, reports, opinions, analyses, 21:30 VOA Magazine, 22:00 Special English News, 22:15 News Music, USA, 22:30 VOA World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

FILM

* "Summer in the City" by Wim Wenders, at the Goshie Institute at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITION

* "Most Ancient Jordan: The Past Half-Million Years" at the American Centre.
* The 2nd exhibition of Contemporary Jordanian Painters, at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

VIDEO

* CBS Evening News, at the American Centre at 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, Tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, 37440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman, 66175.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Al-Balad, 23541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman, 43453.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 663249.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41593
Soviet Cultural Centre 44023
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Husseini Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 664251
Armenian Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 84355

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Medinet and Jerash (6th to 13th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qaf's (Crucifix Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mustafa, Jabel Luwaidh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30126.
Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lease Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Lease Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

PRAYER TIMES

6:30 — Fajr
06:40 — (Sunrise) Shuruq
11:32 — Oshur
15:13 — 'Asr
18:24 — Maghrib
19:55 — 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at Amman Airport tel. 92205-6, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:45 — Cairo (EA)
08:45 — Cairo (RU)
08:45 — Aqaba (RU)
09:15 — Oshur, Abu Dhabi (RU)
09:30 — Jeddah (RU)
09:40 — Oshur (RU)
09:45 — Kuwait (RU)
09:55 — Kuwait (TU)
10:15 — Beirut (RU)
10:35 — Oshur, Riyadh (SV)
11:00 — Cairo (EA)
11:40 — Kuwait (KAC)
12:00 — Sohar, Istanbul (RU)
12:30 — Larnaca (RU)
12:30 — Cairo (RU)
12:35 — Frankfurt, Geneva (LH)
17:15 — New York, Vienna (RU)
17:45 — London, Paris (RU)
18:05 — Madrid, Tripoli (RU)
18:05 — Rome (Alitalia)
18:25 — Copenhagen, Athens, Oshur (SK)
18:30 — Cairo (RU)
18:45 — Amsterdam, Athens (KLM)
19:05 — Frankfurt, Geneva (LH)
19:15 — Beirut (MEA)
23:00 — Oshur (RU)
00:30 — Cairo (RU)
00:35 — Baghdad (RU)

DEPARTURES

06:45 — Cairo (RU)
06:50 — Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:08 — Aqaba (RU)
07:40 — Beirut, Paris (AF)
07:50 — Cairo (EA)
10:05 — Athens, Amsterdam (KLM)
10:45 — Athens, Tunis (TU)
11:00 — Vienna, New York (RU)
11:30 — Tunis, Copenhagen (RU)
11:45 — Riyadh, Oshur (SV)
12:05 — Cairo (EA)
12:15 — Larnaca (RU)
12:30 — Cairo (RU)
12:30 — Kuwait (KAC)
12:30 — Beirut (RU)
19:00 — Kuwait (RU)
19:15 — Dhahran (RU)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local selling rates in JLD

Belgian franc 73.1/ 75.5
Dutch guilder 129.9/ 130.7
Egyptian pound 325.5/ 328.7
French franc 48.5/ 48.8
Iraqi dinar 320.2/ 325.6
Italian lire (for 100) 24.5/ 24.7
Japanese yen (for 100) 152.5/ 153.4
Kuwaiti dinar 1225/ 1232.2
Lebanese lira 85.3/ 85.9
Omani rial 1024.2/ 1033
Qatari riyal 97.7/ 98.5
Saudi riyal 103.1/ 103.8
Swiss franc 174.1/ 175.1
Syrian lira 96.9/ 97.7
UAE dirham 61.1/ 61.5
U.K. sterling pound 562.2/ 565.6
U.S. dollar 355.5/ 357.5
W. German mark 146.1/ 147

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

There will be medium and high clouds, with light and variable winds. Temperature will be around annual average. In Aqaba, it will be hazy, with northerly moderate winds and seas calm.

Low/high temperature in deg. C

Amman 11/26
Aqaba 17/33
Deserts 12/27
Jordan Valley 15/31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 19 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 193, 75111
Fire, police 199
Blood bank 75111
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 22090-3
Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777
Police headquarters 39141
Traffic police 36390-1
Electric Power Co. 36381-2
Municipal water service 71125-8

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 81813-32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4
Al-Khalifa Maternity, J. Amman 42441
Jabel Amman Maternity 42362
Malhas, J. Amman 36140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171-4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131-7
University Hospital 84584-5
Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158
Al-Musader Hospital 667227-9
The Islamic, Abdull 665292
Al-Ahli, Abdull 664164
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101-3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111
Army, Marik 91611

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Najjar 75030

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in JLD per kg.
Almond (green) 600/ 500
Apple (American) 500/ 450
Apple (Double Red) 230/ 200
Apple (Golden) 230/ 200
Apple (French) 500/ 450
Apple (Stark) 230/ 200
Banana (Mekong) 270/ 220
Banana (Mekong) 300/ 250
Beans (broad) 140/ 100
Beans 150/ 100
Cabbage 90/ 60
Carrot 110/ 100
Cauliflower (white) 280/ 200
Cocoon 300/ 250
Cucumber (large) 120/ 80
Cucumber (small) 200/ 160
Eggplant (large) 240/ 170
Garlic (green) 150/ 100
Garlic (dry) 250/ 200
Grapefruit 150/ 120
Grapes 1100/ 1000

Lemon 220/ 180
Liquorice 500/ 400
Marrow (large) 80/ 60
Marrow (small) 130/ 100
Mallow 500/ 400
Onion (dry) 90/ 70
Onion (green) 300/ 250
Oranges (shmeisani) 200/ 160
Peas 220/ 180
Pears 700/ 600
Peanut 900/ 800
Pepper (Sweet) 600/ 500
Pepper (Hot Green) 520/ 480
Plum 440/ 360
Potatoes 300/ 250
Radish 150/ 120
Spinach 180/ 150
Thyme (green) 850/ 700
Tomatoes 240/ 180
Turnip 180/ 150
Watermelon (Indian) 300/ 250
Watermelon (Saudi) 250/ 200

SPORTS

China lands six out of seven table tennis titles

TOKYO (R) — Guo Yuehua emerged as modest hero of China's triumphant team at the 37th World Table Tennis Championships when he retained the men's singles title on the final day of competition Monday.

China, who won all seven titles at the last championships, claimed six of them this time, dropping only the men's doubles on Sunday to Yugoslav pair Dragutin Surbek and Zorao Kalinic.

Guo, a 27-year-old physical education teacher, beat his old rival and compatriot Cai Zheohua 21-15, 19-21, 21-18, 21-18 in a repeat of the 1981 final. Cai won seven more points than he did two years ago when, like Monday, his only success was winning the second game.

Guo remained unassuming to the end. A player who rarely challenges decisions, however close, and never shouts, said: "I did not think I could give such a performance today."

"I was in luck. Cai missed some easy balls, which was unfortunate

for him. He is normally so good."

Guo's quiet approach and top-spin shots may make him appear a little old-fashioned but he remained a devastating competitor in what he says will be his last championships.

China's other defending singles champion, Tong Ling, who looked tired from the start, lost her title when she was beaten by South Korean Yang Youog-Ja in the quarter-finals Sunday.

Yang, one of the surprises of the championships, went on to the final where she met her match in China's Cao Yashua, the world number two.

Cao, runner-up in 1981, was just too fast and too clever for the South Korean girl, winning 21-9, 10-21, 21-9, 21-13. But Yang captured the imagination of the crowd at Tokyo's Olympic pool stadium for her combative spirit.

Apart from winning the men's and women's singles and the mixed doubles Monday, the Chinese also claimed both team titles and the women's doubles.

"You could say we were satisfied," one Chinese official said. But another seemed almost embarrassed, saying he would have been happier if the Chinese had won less and lost more.

"I would personally be able to face my table tennis friends from other countries with an easier mind," he added.

Why are the Chinese so good at the game? A Chinese official explained in this way — national enthusiasm, government support and an awful lot of players.

The number of registered table tennis players in China is estimated at 10 million.

"We start playing early, maybe at the age of five. It is our national sport. There are many players. The result is obvious," the official said.

Bicheroova claims more gymnastics gold medals

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) — Soviet World Champion Olga Bicheroova Sunday added two more gold medals to the overall title she won on Saturday at the women's European Gymnastics Championships here.

The 16-year-old from Moscow struck gold in two of the four individual exercise events, winning the horse vault and sharing the floor exercises title with Ecaterina Szabo of Romania.

Szabo, 15, was second in the horse vault and won solo gold on the uneven bars, the apparatus which put paid to the title defence of overall champion Maxi Gnauck who slipped in practice and was ruled out of the whole competition with a sprained arm.

Szabo, European junior titleholder for the past two years, beat fellow Romanian Lavinia Agache into second place on the uneven bars.

McEnroe wins Tournament of Champions

NEW YORK (R) — John McEnroe won his first claycourt tournament in four years Sunday when he beat fellow New Yorker Vitas Gerulaitis 6-3, 7-5 in the final of the \$300,000 World Championship Tennis (WCT) Tournament of Champions.

Relying on touch far more than power and rarely attacking the net, the 24-year-old McEnroe gave a superb demonstration of clay-court tennis before a near-capacity crowd of about 13,000 at the West Side Tennis Club.

Clay is McEnroe's least favourite surface, and one on which he has had little success. But on Sunday he demonstrated patience and a brilliant touch on his lob and dropshot in subduing the aggressive Gerulaitis, who topped McEnroe in the final of the inaugural Tournament of Champions three years ago.

The victory, which earned McEnroe \$100,000, came a week after he had beaten Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia in the WCT final in Dallas on a fast indoor surface.

And his play in the tournament, in which he did not lose a set, clearly demonstrated that he will be a serious threat in the French Open

which begins on May 23.

"Winning here was particularly satisfying because I haven't done much on clay," McEnroe told the gallery after accepting his winner's cheque. "I've beaten some pretty good clay-court players the last couple of days."

In 28-year-old Gerulaitis, he beat one of the best. Although McEnroe holds an 8-4 career edge over him, Gerulaitis has won their two previous meetings on clay.

McEnroe has often been vulnerable on clay because of his penchant for trying to end points quickly and decisively. But this week patience and touch were the hallmarks of his game as he swept past Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden, Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia and Guillermo Vilas of Argentina with the loss of only 13 games en route to the final.

Gerulaitis played well but often paid the price for his aggressiveness. He scored with about a half-dozen volley winners but was victimised almost as many times by winning McEnroe lobs as he attacked the net. McEnroe also used the dropshot to perfection, driving Gerulaitis deep from side

to side and then sending over softly-stroked dropshots for outright winners.

McEnroe said: "Rather than play serve and volley, I now try to wait for the right shot. I'll hit seven or eight shots, if necessary, but if I have an attacking shot I'll take it. And the new medium-sized graphite racket has helped. It gives me more power but still gives me my touch."

McEnroe lost his service for the first and only time in the tournament in the seventh game of the opening set, but broke Gerulaitis at love and at 15 in the first set and at 30 in the 11th game of the second.

Gerulaitis was able to reach break-point once in the second set, but McEnroe saved that point with a backhand lob winner before holding in the fourth game.

"He lobbed very well," Gerulaitis said. "If he misses some, he might lose his confidence, but he didn't."

McEnroe, seeded second, said he would not play again until the French Open in order to rest a thigh muscle he strained during a doubles match on Tuesday.

Roberts beats favourite Spencer in Hockenheim Grand Prix

HOCKENHEIM, West Germany (R) — Former World 500 cc champion Kenny Roberts beat his favourite Freddie Spencer in the German Motorcycle Grand Prix here Sunday.

California Roberts, title winner three times but out of luck this season, was leading on his Yamaha when the race was stopped by rain after 15 of the scheduled 18 laps.

Fellow American Spencer, unbeaten in all three previous rounds of this year's championship, came fourth but still heads the standings by 18 points from Roberts.

Spencer, 21, fastest in practice, was handicapped by a ruptured exhaust on his Honda. He led until the eighth lap when Roberts passed him.

Second and third were two other former world champions on Hondas — Japan's Takazumi Takayama, 350 cc title winner in 1977, and Italy's Marco Lucchinelli who claimed the 500 cc crown in 1981.

A Yamaha rider also triumphed in the 250 cc category when Venezuela's Carlos Lavado finished a comfortable 20 seconds clear of Patrick Fernandez of France on a Bartol.

Lavado went top of the standings, two points ahead of Didier de Radigues of Belgium, third

Sunday on his Chevallier.

Eugenio Lazzarini of Italy, favourite to win both smaller engine classes, finished second on a Garelli in both the 50 cc and 125 cc races.

Swiss Stefan Dörflinger, riding a Kreidler, beat him by less than half a second in the 50 cc but Lazzarini still heads his rival by nine points in the world championship.

In the 125 cc race, Spain's Angel Nieto, also on a Garelli, was more than three seconds ahead of the Italian and now leads him by six points in the standings.

Agreement signed for mining cooperation between Jordan, Italy

An agreement in the field of mining limestone and marble, between the Public Mining Company of Jordan and the Technostone Spa of Carrara Italy, was signed May 5, 1983 at the Italian Embassy in Jordan.

The financing for the studies envisaged in this agreement is to be jointly carried by the Italian government and the Public Mining Company of Jordan.

This agreement is a sign of the coo-

operation between both the Italian government and the Jordanian government, through the National Planning Council, for promoting quarrying in Jordan especially in the field of marble and masonry stones.

Both parties look forward to modernising quarrying techniques in Jordan and supplying the Public Mining Company with the most up to date facilities to obtain a higher standard of stone extraction and marble production.

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Full name
Date of birth
Place of birth - town and country
Nationality
Marital status
Postal address
Telephone number during working hours
Brief details of career to date.

TENNIS TALK

Keys to good anticipation

By Maureen Stalla

CONTRARY TO popular opinion, "anticipation" is not some magic power gifted to a few lucky players. Actually it is a much overrated dimension of good court coverage. Only about ten per cent of getting to the ball sooner is guesswork. The other 90 per cent involves mechanics and preparation.

The first key involves moving well, and the secret to good movement is the split step, a hop on both feet. The players who cover the court the best begin their movement to each shot with a slight hop just before their opponents hit the ball. If the hop is timed just right, the player will have a great jump on the ball.

The second key is court positioning. Where you stand while awaiting your opponent's serve or his next shot in a rally can mean added seconds in getting to the ball. You should position yourself in the middle of the angle of possible return.

The third key to good anticipation is sensory alertness. By that I mean focusing your eyes, ears and energy on the ball. Concentration should be so total that all nerve impulses should be cracking and one's entire being should be focused on one thought—getting ready for the next shot.

These practical solutions are much more effective than guesswork. Most club players don't trust themselves enough and say to themselves, "I'm just going to guess and go early." But by doing this they give their opponents a lot of free points. They move so early that they open up the court. Their opponents see that and easily win points by bunting the ball into the opening. The player who relies on guessing is giving his opponent too much credit.

If you learn to move properly, follow the sound fundamentals of good court positioning, and stay alert to the ball at all times, you will seem to possess that quality of "good anticipation" and reduce your need of supernatural powers.

Spain bags World Team Tennis Cup

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — Spain strove to an unbeatable 2-0 lead over Australia in the final of the \$450,000 World Team Tennis Cup Monday thanks to the consistency of singles players Jose Higueras and Manuel Orantes.

Higueras, ranked number seven in the world, took less than 90 minutes to beat Australia's Mark Edmondson, the world number 23, 6-2, 6-4.

Orantes, facing young Australian prodigy Pat Cash, at 17 just

half the Spaniard's age, was an equally comfortable winner by 6-3, 6-2.

Spain took the winner's \$150,000 first prize while Australia had to be content with the \$80,000 purse for the runners-up.

The easy manner of Spain's progress throughout the tournament — they beat holders the United States in the semifinals — was largely due to the solid play of Higueras, who looked by far the best player in the eight teams taking part on the slow clay courts.

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Entry: Adults 300 fils, children 200 fils

See the world through Third World eyes

THIS MONTH

- ☐ Cover Story: Crisis of conscience — can the Church take sides?
- ☐ News Alert: After New Delhi news course is set.
- ☐ Middle East: OPEC keeps a stiff upper lip.
- ☐ Africa: Iran and China move in.
- ☐ Indonesia: Falling oil prices put Jakarta on the spot.
- ☐ Prospects Asia: In spite of world

recession the prognosis is good.
☐ Interview: Huan Xiang, senior adviser at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences on why the US will not trust China.

☐ Business Profile: Juan Francisco Rallo, head of Peru's Banco de Credito.

SPECIAL REPORT: INSIDE PAKISTAN

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GOVERNMENT TENDERING
DIRECTORATE
ANNOUNCEMENT
SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT
MOE - PROJECT No. 4

The central Tendering Committee announces tender of the following school building:-

The General Secondary Vocational School for Boys/ Russiyfah (Area 10,000 sq.m.)

All classified contractors for the years (79-82) in the Ministry of Public Works as class "A" general or class "A" buildings, and all international contracting firms registered at the International Bank for Development and Reconstruction are invited to get copies of the tendering documents from the Project Implementation Unit - Ministry of Education (Address: behind the General Security Offices Tel. 661166) against a nonrefundable JD 100 for each copy.

- Last date for obtaining tender documents: Thursday 9.6.1983.
- Last date for submitting tender documents is Thursday 16.6.83, at the Government Tenders Directorate in the Ministry of Public Works Building.

Notes:

1. All tenderers have to submit their offers in two separate envelopes. The first containing their prequalification documents and technical offer including time schedule equipment, previous experience, and work load. The second envelope containing financial offer and the priced bill of quantities.
2. All tenderers have to fill unit prices in the bill of quantities both in numbers and letters.
3. A tender bond of JD 40,000 should be attached to each offer.

Chairman - Central
Tendering Committee,
Director Government
Tenders Directorate.



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U.S. will not press allies on trade with East

PARIS (R) — The United States will not press its trading partners for any public accord to limit trade with the Eastern bloc at this week's meeting of Western industrial nations, a senior U.S. official said Sunday.

"It's a lot more important to achieve the substance (of agreement) than the visibility," U.S. trade representative Mr. Bill Brock told reporters.

Mr. Brock, in Paris for a two-day meeting of the 24-nation Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), said President Reagan did not feel he was owed Western European backing for limits on trade with the Soviet bloc in exchange for lifting U.S. sanctions against the Soviet gas pipeline.

Other U.S. officials say privately an OECD study, on East-West trade, to be presented Monday at a meeting of OECD ministers, will bolster the American position on trade with the Eastern bloc.

After the United States lifted sanctions last autumn on supplying Western-produced equipment for a Soviet gas pipeline, the Western trading partners agreed to undertake studies of their trade with the Eastern bloc.

In the European view, the United States believes the studies

must ultimately lead to an agreement limiting trade with the East, mainly by sharp restrictions on preferential credit terms granted by Western governments.

Mr. Brock denied that the United States held any such preconceived notion, but added that the Reagan administration would like a unified Western posture.

The United States is seeking tighter Western restraints on trade in strategic materials and opposes strongly government subsidies to enable Eastern bloc nations to buy Western goods.

A U.S. treasury official, who asked not to be identified, said the OECD study concluded that "the economic relationship has not been really very profitable" for the West.

Mr. Brock discounted press reports that a meeting, sought by the United States, of trade and finance ministers from the seven nations due to attend an economic summit at Williamsburg, Virginia, later this month was on the verge of collapse.

British sources said there were no plans for their finance and trade ministers to attend the Wednesday meeting. France is boycotting it. West German Finance Minister Otto Lambsdorff has pleaded a prior commitment and Italian participation is uncertain.

Tokyo stock prices break record

TOKYO (R) — The Japanese yen rose strongly against the U.S. dollar on the Tokyo foreign exchange market Monday helping push share prices to record highs.

At the end of an active day during which \$1.70 billion worth of currencies changed hands, the dollar had dropped to 233.10 yen against Friday's close of 235.45.

As the yen rose, the market average on the Tokyo stock exchange,

the world's second largest after Wall Street, rose by 31.11 to a closing 8,719.88 points.

Stockbrokers said the firming yen revived hopes among Japanese investors that the Bank of Japan might cut its discount rate soon and reduce companies' interest payment burdens.

Japanese industry, particularly small and medium-sized firms, has been pressing for such relief for

months, hoping it would stimulate consumer spending, improve profits.

Economic indicators are beginning to improve in the U.S. and some West European countries but there are few signs yet that Japan is following close behind.

The Bank of Japan has resisted demands for lower interest rates, mainly through fear of weakening the yen.

Sterling drifts lower

LONDON (R) — A ripple of unease travelled through foreign exchange markets Monday after Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher made her long-awaited announcement of a British general election next month.

Sterling, which opened at \$1.5830 and had hovered around \$1.58 throughout the morning, drifted down to \$1.5725, more than half a cent down on its closing level last Friday.

New York reported a similar fall in reaction to the news, and in Frankfurt sterling also lost ground against the West German mark, trading at 3.8250 after 3.8505 at Friday's close.

Mrs. Thatcher ended weeks of press speculation by naming June 9 as the date for the poll—a full 11 months before it was constitutionally necessary.

Dealers said sterling's movements, although narrow, reflected caution over the likely outcome of the election.

Shultz says East-West trade unbalanced

PARIS (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Mr. George Shultz said Monday that trade between communist countries and the West had been artificially boosted by subsidies from Western governments.

He told the opening session of a two-day meeting of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): "East-West trade would remain at a low level if not for subsidies or other forms of political intervention that boosted it to artificially higher levels."

Mr. Shultz denied allegations by other Western countries that the U.S. has tried to curtail trade with the Soviet Union and its allies for political purposes.

"The issue is not waging economic warfare against the Soviet Union," he said.

"The more pervasive problem we face is not political interference restricting East-West trade but political interference maintaining it."

The U.S. has been pressing other industrial nations to end government subsidies for trade with the Soviet bloc and to how to market for.

"We should apply to our economic relations with the East the same prudent commercial and financial criteria that we would apply to any other business venture," Mr. Shultz said.

He did not ask the 24 OECD

nations to agree to specific limits on trade with the East, but called for greater monitoring of trade arrangements between Western governments and the bloc.

He said OECD nations should exchange information on future undertakings planned in communist countries in order to safeguard against any efforts by the Soviet Union and its allies to pit Western nations against one another.

U.S. officials have said East-West trade should not play the same dominant role at this month's economic summit of Western leaders in Williamsburg, Virginia, that it did at last June's session at Versailles.

The officials say good progress on commerce with the Soviet bloc now under way in other forums grouping experts from Western countries should place the subject lower on the Williamsburg agenda.

One report on East-West trade emerging from such studies was prepared by OECD experts and was to be discussed at this week's Paris meeting. Mr. Shultz said the report was "a good starting point for our discussion."

The report has not been made public, but U.S. officials say it describes government subsidies for trade with the East as inefficient and concludes that the economic relationship between East and West has been less beneficial for the West.

Report suggests U.S. trade sanctions on Soviets backfired

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. trade sanctions against the Soviet Union may have hurt the American more than the Soviet economy and helped Moscow by causing Western disunity, according to a congressional report released Sunday.

"The embargo on grain, oil and gas technology dramatically illustrates the difficulties of a policy of trade leverage against the Soviet Union," according to the report by the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA), a congressional research unit.

"The sanctions did hurt vulnerable sectors of the Soviet economy but probably not enough to make a real economic difference," the OTA said in a summary of the report.

"The sanctions may have done more damage to the U.S. economy than the Soviet economy," it said, adding that the U.S. attempts to exert economic leverage following the Soviet move into Afghanistan and the military crackdown in Poland did not cause the Kremlin to change its behaviour.

"The USSR may even have

benefited from the public display of Western disunity following the imposition of the sanctions," the OTA said.

OTA said U.S. allies in Europe and Asia were unlikely to endorse the Reagan administration's hard-line trade policies. "Their future trade relations with the USSR will be shaped more by domestic imperatives and worldwide economic forces than by U.S. concerns," it said.

OPEC Fund to host major aid meeting

VIENNA (OPECNA) — The OPEC Fund for International Development is to host a major meeting of aid agencies on 30 and 31 May.

Participants will include Arab aid agencies, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and commercial banks in Arab and Western countries.

The meeting will focus on the co-financing of development projects by donor agencies and commercial sources.

It will be preceded by a meeting of heads of OPEC and Arab aid

agencies on 28 May, and a gathering of directors of operations of the agencies on 26 and 27 May.

Meanwhile, preparations are underway for a meeting on 24 May of the fund's ministerial council, comprising finance ministers from OPEC member countries, to be followed on 25 May by a meeting of its governing board.

The ministerial council is expected to decide on a successor to Mr. Ibrahim Shihata, the fund's director general, who joins the World Bank as vice president and general counsel on 1 July.

Shareholders in House of Fraser reject bid to demerge Harrods

LONDON (R) — Shareholders in the House of Fraser store chain have rejected a bid to hive off London's premier store, Harrods, and make it an independent company, the results of a ballot showed Monday.

The Lornho trading conglomerate, the largest shareholder with just under 30 per cent of Fraser, said it plans to press for demerger again when shareholders next meet on June 30.

Shareholders who voted on Fri-

day in the latest round of a long-running public battle between leading figures in the group rejected the Lornho demerger plan by 65,655,669 votes to 63,816,509.

There are 152 million Fraser shares.

Lornho says Harrods, a famous landmark in London's wealthy Knightsbridge district with a worldwide clientele, could bring shareholders rich rewards if it were not held back by less successful

Fraser stores.

The Fraser board, most of which threatened to resign if it lost Friday's vote, argues that demerger would be against the group's interests and could threaten Harrods' uniqueness.

Lornho Chief Roland "Tiny" Rowland has waged a six-year campaign for control of Fraser.

In 1981 the monopolies and mergers commission threw out a Lornho takeover bid.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market was easier, although equities ended above the day's lows after a moderately active session. At 1500, Monday the F.T. index was down 3.1 at 691.3, having touched 684.1.

Prices fell over a broad front initially as long positions were unwound, awaiting a decision on a general election following the prime minister's week-end meeting with her advisers.

Equities later rallied to close only a few pence down after June 9 was declared as election day but government bonds turned easier again leaving net falls ranging to about ¾ point, dealers said.

ICI, Plessey, Glaxo, Tate and Lyle, Thorn EMI and Boots showed net falls of 2p or 3p on the day but Unilever gained 5p and Courtaulds was 2p higher.

Trafalgar House closed 6p up at 184 awaiting results, but after results Akroyd and Smithers ended 8p lower at 343 but British Home Stores firmed 2p to 220.

Oils were narrowly mixed, banks eased and insurances firmed while gold shares closed below best levels after a quiet session, dealers said.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.5785/95	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2257/60	Canadian dollars
	2.4340/50	West German marks
	2.7385/95	Dutch guilders
	2.0410/25	Swiss francs
	48.66/70	Belgian francs
	7.3420/50	French francs
	1450.00/1451.00	Italian lire
	233.05/20	Japanese yen
	7.4580/4630	Swedish crowns
	7.0600/50	Norwegian crowns
	8.6750/6800	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	435.00/435.75	U.S. dollars

Oteiba urges strategic pipeline

ABU DHABI (R) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba Sunday urged his country to build a pipeline from its Gulf coast oilfields to the Indian Ocean, bypassing the vulnerable Strait of Hormuz.

Mr. Oteiba wrote in an article published in the Al Itihad daily newspaper that the pipeline should carry oil to UAE terminals on the Gulf of Oman from Abu Dhabi and Dubai emirates, which pump over a million barrels of crude daily.

The war between Iran and Iraq has emphasised the dangers of relying solely in tankers, which have to pass through the strait.

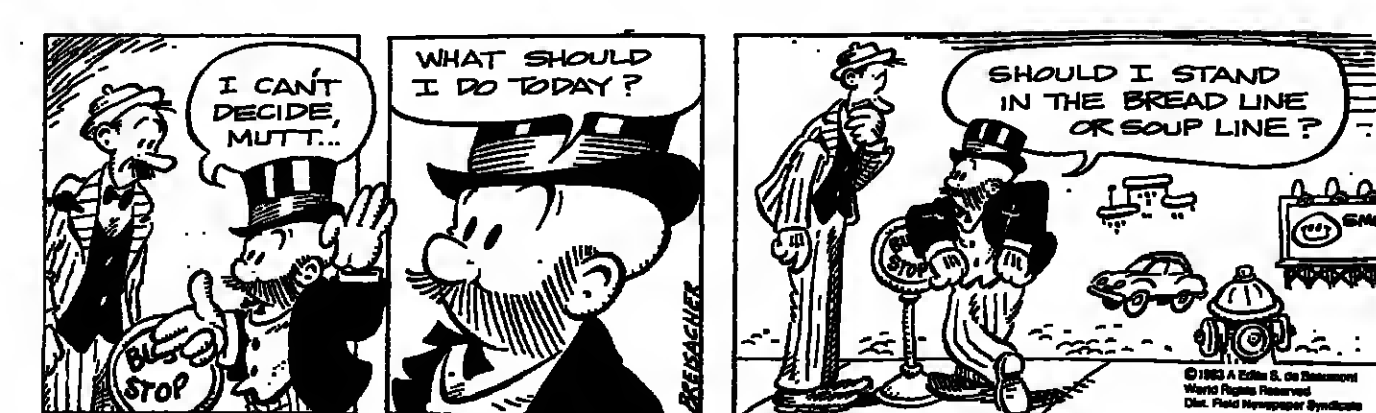
Mr. Oteiba backed construction of a major strategic pipeline from Kuwait to Oman.



Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



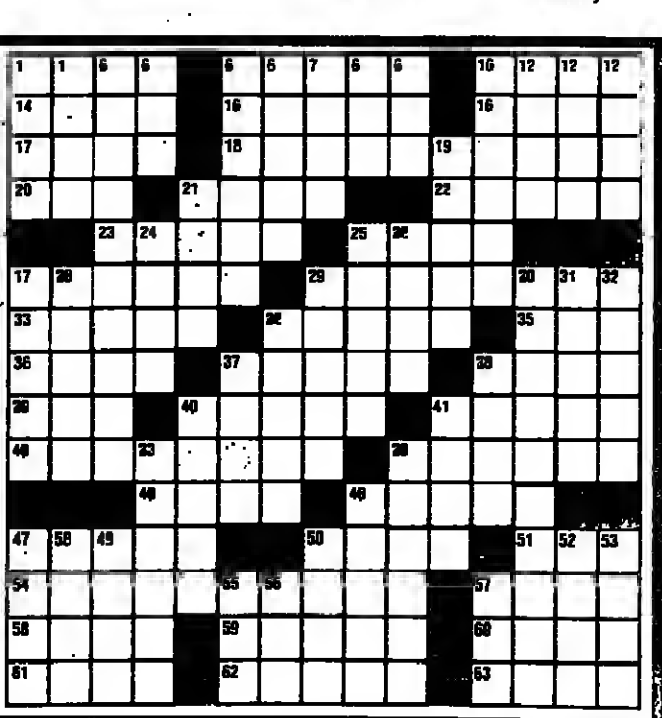
Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword by Nancy McCarthy

ACROSS	27 Gaps	48 Be of consequence	25 Sera of
1 Oomph	29 —ack (vitamin C)	47 Region	26 PFCa and
5 Water	33 Between	50 Crabby	27 Trades
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14 Literary	35 Peer Gyn't's	57 A Copper	29 Ms. Semple
15 Solo	36 Gaele	58 Aleutian	30 Relative
16 Swiss	37 Jesters	59 Current	31 Alt
17 Ruin'a	38 1151	60 Endorse	32 Topa nif
18 Hiker	39 Ararat's	61 Harvest	33 Power
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	45 Dill		43 Put to

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ATHLETIC INTERMEDIATE	50 Crabby	49 heart
WIND AREA STAGLINE	51 Debit color	47 Ski lift
VINDICTIVE SURE	57 A Copper	48 Rank
COIT SIBERSIT	58 Aleutian	49 Judicial
FAIRWEATHER EYE	59 Current	50 Utah's
THIRD GLOBE TROU	60 Endorse	51 tower
TRIPAL BUCKHORN	61 Harvest	52 Epochal
PERSONAL ONA	62 Rapier	53 Week's
CUSP THEPITIS	63 Solidifies	54 contents
ATRAISE PARM RAP		55 Video sets
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LOUIS SAGE EMERY		58 Trail
		59 closely



WORLD

Stern takes reporter to court

BONN (R) — The West German magazine Stern Monday filed a lawsuit for fraud against its reporter Gerd Heidemann over the forged diaries of Adolf Hitler, which he claimed to have found.

Stern said in a statement publisher Henri Nannen had filed a civil suit at the Hamburg district court public prosecutor's office, alleging "that Heidemann named as source for the purported Hitler diaries a man who in all probability does not exist."

West German government experts last Friday declared that the documents, which Stern and other European periodicals had begun publishing, were blatant, grotesque and superficial forgeries, probably concocted after 1964.

Mr. Heidemann had claimed that the diaries had survived a 1945 plane crash near the village of Boernersdorf in what is now

East Germany but refused to disclose his source.

Monday's statement said: "At the present stage of Stern's investigations, it must be assumed that Heidemann correctly researched the crash of the 'Fuehrer plane' near Boernersdorf, then clearly fell into the hands of a swindler and may well have ended up by enriching himself."

The statement said that once it became clear the diaries were fakes, Stern's editors and the magazine's proprietors, the Gruner and Jahr Publishing House, ordered Heidemann to disclose his source "since editorial secrecy could not apply to the supplier of forged material."

"Statements which Heidemann and his wife Gina are reported to have made to foreign newspapers contradict each other," the magazine said.

The British Sunday Times, which bought publishing rights to the documents, quoted Heidemann's wife Sunday as indicating the diaries came from a top-level East German official.

Mr. Heidemann's whereabouts Monday were closely guarded secret.

A Stern spokeswoman said he needed time to rest and think out of the glare of publicity. Former Stern editor Peter Koch, who took responsibility for failure to discover the forgery and resigned on Saturday, said he understood the reporter had travelled to Switzerland.

The magazine's editorial staff Monday apologised to readers and said they were ashamed of the way the journal had handled the affair.

A statement by staff of the Hamburg magazine Stern des-

cribed publication of the diaries as a serious blow to the credibility of the weekly magazine.

Investigations continued into the 62-volume forgery, which caused a sensation when first extracts were printed two weeks ago. No conclusive evidence of their origin has yet been produced.

"We are ashamed of this publication even though few of us were involved in and informed about it. The uncritical adoption of the comment by (Historian Hugh) Trevor-Roper that parts of the history of the Third Reich would have to be rewritten, was irresponsible," they said.

"Even if the 'diaries' had been genuine, common respect for the victims of the National Socialist regime should have precluded the style of publication that was chosen," they added.

Kabul expels U.S. diplomat

WASHINGTON (R) — Afghanistan has ordered the expulsion of a second secretary at the U.S. embassy in Kabul, Peter Graham, the State Department said.

The department said Afghanistan had charged that Mr. Graham used pornographic material to buy rugs.

It described the charge as "judicious and wholly without foundation."

Mr. Graham will leave Kabul in a few days, the department said. He had been scheduled to leave Kabul at the end of May for reassignment, it added.

"We do not know what the Afghan motivation might be. We have pointed out that there is no substance to the explanation they have given us and have asked whether they could provide another," a State Department spokesman said.

"We are also puzzled and concerned about recent arrests by the Afghan secret police of most of our embassy's white collar Afghan employees who were performing routine administrative duties in the embassy," the spokesman added.

Seoul refuses to return 9 hijackers to China

SEOUL (R) — The passengers and crew of a Chinese airliner hijacked to South Korea were to return home Monday, government officials said.

But after the first direct talks between South Korea and China the Seoul government rejected Peking's demand for the hijackers to be sent back to face trial.

A statement issued after the third round of talks Sunday said South Korea would exercise its judicial right to try the five men and one woman in accordance with international agreements and practices.

Taiwan has claimed that the hijackers are political dissidents who should be granted their wish to receive asylum on the Chinese nationalist-ruled island.

China and South Korea do not have diplomatic relations. But the head of the Chinese delegation, Shen Tu, director general of the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), and South Korean Assistant Foreign Minister Gong Ro-Myung showed great friendliness towards each other in their public appearances.

Diplomatic sources said a satisfactory resolution of problems arising from the hijacking and Peking's willingness to hold direct talks with Seoul could help to ease enmities stemming back to Chinese support for communist North Korea in the 1950-53 Korean War.

South Korean prosecutors have interviewed the passengers and crew to determine what happened aboard the British-built Trident last Thursday after the pilot was ordered at gunpoint to divert from his scheduled route from Shenyang to Shanghai, officials said.

They had also inspected the aircraft at a U.S. military base near Chuncheon, 70 kilometres northeast of Seoul, to trace the path of eight shots fired from two 7.62 mm pistols used by the hijackers.

The navigator and radio operator were shot in the legs. They have undergone surgery and at the request of the Chinese authorities would return to China later than the other 94 passengers and crew to allow time for their wounds to heal, officials said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli teachers go on strike

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli teachers demanding better wages and working conditions went on strike Monday forcing about 1.5 million pupils to stay at home. A spokesman for the teachers' union said the strikers, who want a rise of about 37 per cent, were protesting against delays in implementing a government commission's recommendations for higher salaries and smaller classes.

Artist surrounds islands with fabric

MIAMI (R) — A Bulgarian artist and his 400 helpers, despite massive opposition, has stretched pink fabric around the last of 11 islands in Biscayne Bay, completing his "surrounded islands" project only two and a half days behind schedule. After three years of planning, seven public hearings, two federal court battles and negotiations with ten separate regulatory agencies, he fulfilled his \$3.2 million dream of turning an 8 kilometre stretch of the bay between Miami Beach and the mainland into a gigantic "lily pond."

Peasant jailed for killing female panda

PEKING (R) — A peasant has been jailed for two years for killing and eating a giant panda, one of the world's rarest animals, the People's Daily said Monday. The official newspaper said the panda, a female called Hanhan (stupid), was one of several that had been fitted with a radio monitoring device to keep track of its movements. The peasant, Leng Zhizhong, strangled the beast after catching it in a steel wire trap. He then skinned it and took the carcass home to eat, the paper added.

Pigeon-catcher charged with theft

TAIPEI (R) — A man who caught about 50 racing pigeons by standing on top of a hill with big nets and then tried to extract ransoms from their owners has been charged with theft and extortion, police said Monday. They said Hung Chin-Jung, 36, seized the pigeons during a race in central Taiwan. But instead of meeting his ransom demands, the owners went to the police. Early this year, a pigeon race organiser vanished after a one million Taiwan dollar (\$25,000) event in which many owners said they lost their birds in mysterious circumstances. Some alleged they were shot down.

Sri Lankan army defuses 3 bombs

COLOMBO (R) — Three parcel bombs were found Monday in Sri Lanka's northern district of Jaffna hours after separatist gunmen attacked an opposition election rally. Two of the bombs were planted in the compounds of two weekly newspapers offices. The third was found outside the office of a Tamil youth organisation, police said. All three were defused by the army. The bombs were seen as the latest attempt by guerrillas seeking a separate Tamil state to sabotage local elections next week. Gunmen burst into the election rally Sunday night firing shots into the air and seized a car belonging to Appapillai Amirthalingam, general secretary of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), after dragging out his driver.

Novelist dies at 68

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (R) — John Masters, whose novels of life in India under British rule included "Bhowani Junction" and "Nightrunners of Bengal," died in hospital Saturday of a heart condition. He was 68. A spokesman said Mr. Masters had entered hospital at least a month ago and never recovered from complications which developed after heart surgery to bypass blocked coronary arteries. He came to the United States after World War II and became an American citizen in 1954. He wrote nearly two dozen books which displayed his intimate knowledge of India. "Nightrunners of Bengal" was based on the Indian mutiny of 1857. "Bhowani Junction," made into a film, concerned the period just before independence.

9 detained associates of Lech Walesa freed

WARSAW (R) — Nine associates of former Solidarity leader Lech Walesa detained by police at the weekend have been released, family sources said Monday.

They were held after a meeting in Warsaw on Friday between Mr. Walesa and labour activists.

One of the detainees, attorney Wladyslaw Sila-Nowicki, was back at his job at the Warsaw courts Monday morning and the others had also been freed, the lawyer's daughter told Reuters.

Their telephone lines remained disconnected. Reporters were also unable to contact the Walesa home in Gdansk, whose telephone was apparently still out of service.

Mr. Sila-Nowicki's daughter said her father, a former Solidarity adviser, had been in detention about 32 hours and that police had removed some of his papers while searching his flat.

Besides Solidarity figures, the meeting was attended by representatives of pro-communist branch unions, autonomous trade unions and the Polish teachers' union which were all dissolved together with Solidarity last October.

A spokesman at Walesa's home said security police kept the flat in Gdansk's Zaspas housing estate

under close surveillance over the weekend after Mr. Walesa was returned there from Warsaw in a police car early on Saturday morning.

The security crackdown came at the end of a week marked by pro-Solidarity marches quelled by the authorities with tear gas and water cannon and a press campaign designed to ridicule and discredit Mr. Walesa.

Meanwhile, Poland's Catholic prime minister Jozef Gierek, speaking less than six weeks before the Pope's visit, has appealed to Polish communist authorities to heed the will of the people.

Cardinal Gierek, speaking to about 60,000 people who flocked to an open-air mass in the ancient Polish capital of Krakow Sunday, also defended the church against official charges that it provided a forum for opposition activities.

His statement, frequently interrupted by waves of applause, followed severe comments on the church by communist leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski on Saturday. In an emotional climax to his sermon, the prime minister declared with tears in his eyes: "what we need is wisdom, reason and peace, peace, peace."

Spanish electorate shows confidence in socialists

MADRID (R) — Spanish municipal polls have confirmed the support gained by the Socialist Party in the general elections that brought it to power last October.

Returns with 86 per cent of the vote counted Sunday night showed 43.3 per cent for the socialist workers' party, only 2.7 points down from October, giving it control of most of the major cities and semi-autonomous regions. Deputy Prime Minister Alfonso Guerra told reporters.

The right-wing opposition party Popular Alliance (AP) gained about one point on October, he said. AP leader Manuel Fraga said the results showed his party was still growing and had not reached its electoral peak in October as claimed by opponents.

Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said the elections should not be seen as a test of his government, but if opponents sought a vote on his record "now they have it."

Although the turnout, estimated at 67 per cent, was lower than October's 80 per cent, it was satisfactory for municipal elections which generally attract fewer voters, Mr. Guerra said.

The elections for 8,043 municipal councils, 13 regional parliaments and one senate seat also confirmed the domination of the two main parties although the communists made a recovery from their poor general election performance. Mr. Guerra's figures showed.

The communists more than doubled to eight per cent their 3.8 per cent share in the general election. The Social and Democratic Centre Party (CDS) of former Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez fell to 1.71 per cent from 2.80 in October.

The communists were the only party other than the Socialists and AP to take a provincial capital outside the Basque country and Catalonia, both with strong nationalist parties.

They took Cordoba with 18 councillors to AP's five and the socialists' four, Mr. Guerra said. In the 13 semi-autonomous regions the socialists had an absolute majority in seven and the most seats in two more while AP controlled only two. The outcome in the two others was not yet clear, he said.

Botha's policies on test

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's ruling National Party Tuesday fights three by-elections widely seen as a test of Prime Minister P.W. Botha's reform policies.

Two of them take place in the rural Northern Transvaal, where there is strong Afrikaner opposition to plans unveiled by Mr. Botha last week for limited political power-sharing with coloureds (people of mixed race) and Indians in parliament in Cape Town.

The plans are attacked by many right-wing Afrikaners as well as the official opposition, the Progressive Federal Party (PFP). Manpower Minister Fanie Botha, a leading reformer, is fighting for his political life in his Southern Transvaal constituency on the Zimabwe border.

His opponent belongs to the right-wing Conservative Party, formed last year by dissident Nationalists opposed to Prime Minister Botha's plans.

In the neighbouring con-

stituency of Waterberg, Conservative Party leader Andries Treurnicht seeks re-election against a Nationalist and the ultra-right Herstigte National Party (HNP).

The third constituency at stake is the Pretoria suburb of Waterkloof, which the PFP is confident of winning. The PFP is also opposed to the reform plans on the ground that they exclude South Africa's black majority.

The struggle between the three Afrikaner parties in the north has dominated the headlines here. Until last year the National Party, which has ruled South Africa since 1948, presented a united front to the voters. The far-rightists of the HNP, which split from the party 14 years ago, had not been able to win a single parliamentary seat.

For the Conservatives, who have a strong following in the Northern Transvaal, and the HNP, the central issue is maintaining white supremacy and apartheid.

2 U.S. ex-Congressmen join ADC

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Former U.S. Congressmen Paul N. McCloskey, Jr. and Paul Findley have joined the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) as consultants. They will advise ADC on political matters and will also appear at organisational and speaking events before Arab-American audiences.

Mr. McCloskey, a 55-year-old lawyer, served as the Republican congressional representative for California's 12th District from 1967 to 1982. He is on record favouring negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the creation of a Palestinian state in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Findley, the former Republican representative for Illinois' 20th District, was targeted in the last election by pro-Israeli groups for his support for a more even-handed U.S. policy in the Middle East. While in office, Mr. Findley met twice PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and has called for official U.S. investigations into charges of Israel's use of U.S.-supplied cluster bombs against civilian populations.

"We are very enthusiastic about having McCloskey and Findley with us," said ADC Executive Director James Zogby. "Their advice and experience will be invaluable in shaping a strong and viable political agenda for ADC."

Attack on ADC

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A vicious attack has been launched by one of the most powerful arms of the Israeli lobby — the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith (ADL) — against the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) and its co-founders, former South Dakota Sen. James Abourezk and James Zogby.

Commenting on the highly inflammatory charges published in ADL's national handbook "Pro-Arab Propaganda in America: Vehicles and Voices," Mr. Abourezk said, "We know we must be doing something right. Never before has the Israeli lobby launched such a vicious attack on any Arab-American organisation or its members."

ADL said about Mr. Abourezk: "James Abourezk has emerged in

recent years as the Arab-American spokesman most widely quoted by the news media. His preeminence in this regard has coincided with the rapid growth in membership and influence of the ADC which Abourezk co-founded in May 1980."

ADL said that Mr. Zogby has "helped spearhead several pro-PLO propaganda drives in the United States" and along with Mr. Abourezk "has sponsored a number of anti-Israel propaganda offensives during the Lebanese fighting in the summer of 1982 and was responsible for many advertisements alleging Israeli war crimes and misuse of U.S. aid, which appeared in newspapers nationwide."

About ADC, the ADL said: "Although ADC contends that its purpose is to combat negative stereotyping of Arabs in the U.S. media and 'discrimination against Arab-Americans in employment, education and political life,' it has emerged as perhaps the most vocal and highly active pro-PLO propaganda group in the U.S."

ADC has written to ADL demanding an end to the distortions; however the ADL has yet to respond.

Drought affects S. African industry

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A devastating drought which has already brought misery to South Africa's rural areas is now forcing industry to use less water to help prevent power cuts later in the year.

Industrial and mining spokesmen said they were trying to conserve water in line with official demands so that the water-cooled power stations would not have to close or reduce output.

The minister of mineral and energy affairs, Pietie du Plessis, said parliament last week that power stations might be shut down in August if no rain fell before then.

Companies fear that if factories

or mines have to close or are forced to work short-time as a result of power cuts, workers would have to be laid off. This could further depress the economy, they said.

The drought, described by meteorologists as the worst in the history of southern Africa, has already cost the country millions of rands in lost food exports and has reduced demand for such goods as tractors and fertilisers.

A spokesman for the electricity supply commission said he was hopeful power cuts could be avoided.

He said work should be completed by September on a 33 million rand (\$30 million) scheme to

reverse the flow of the Vaal River. The Vaal, one of the country's major waterways, feeds stations in Eastern Transvaal Province which supply most of South Africa's electricity.

The Chamber of Mines, which groups South Africa's gold mining houses, has set up a committee to examine the effect power cuts could have.

Coal mines, which need huge amounts of water to crush and wash their produce, have already taken steps to reduce consumption by the officially requested 20 per cent. One washing plant at a Rand Mines Ltd coal mine has already been closed.

Church, volunteer groups help Salvadorean refugees in U.S.

By William Deener
Reuter

DALLAS — Salvadoreans who flee their civil war by heading for Texas are being helped by a loose coalition of church and volunteer groups who oppose the U.S. government's refusal to allow them to remain as refugees.

The Texan groups estimate that 50,000 Salvadorean have made the long journey to the American state, usually tumbling rides through Guatemala and Mexico before wading into the United States across the shallow Rio Grande.

But when they arrive they find they are unwelcome. The Reagan administration, which backs the conservative Salvadorean government in its battle against leftist insurgents, has ignored an appeal by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that the Salvadoreans be given refugee status.

Most are routinely sent back. In 1982 the U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) granted political asylum to only 74, although even this was a sharp increase on the two permits issued the year before.

5,000 deported

By contrast, the INS arrested more than 14,000 Salvadoreans last year as illegal aliens and deported 5,000.

Most of those not deported are awaiting hearings on applications for political asylum.

The Salvadoreans' plight has aroused the sympathy of Roman Catholic clergymen, Mennonites and volunteer groups who have formed what they call "The Movement".

This organisation, operating in Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and Harlingen, Texas, provides food, shelter and legal advice before and after arrest.

Movement leaders say the Salvadoreans have two main options. They can apply for political asylum in the United States or they can seek residency in Canada, which has headed the U.N. appeal.

It takes two to three years for the U.S. to process an appeal for political asylum, and one to two years for Canada to decide whether to grant a residency permit, movement spokesmen add.

Canada accepts 700

According to Floyd Tufts of the Canadian consulate in Dallas, Canada has so far granted residency to about 700 Salvadoreans detained in the United States.

Canada usually requires that refugees have a skill and be law-abiding and healthy. Successful applicants are granted free travel to Canada, housing, language-training and a job.

But Salvadoreans were illegally going to Canada even before it agreed to the U.N. appeal, taken through the United States by Quakers using the same pipeline which enabled draft-resisters to escape there during the Vietnam War.

The Quakers have now ended that secret operation, which has been replaced by the open activities of "The Movement". In Dallas, the Mennonites International Refugee Assistance Group (MIRA) was set up six months ago to help Salvadoreans get to Canada and MIRA director Brad Ginter said his group had helped 200 Salvadoreans relocate to Canada.

Mr. Ginter said he objected strongly to U.S. policy towards the immigrants. "The refugees are the ones bearing the brunt of the civil war in their country and Canada certainly has given more to them than the United States," he said.

Nancy Boye, director of Proyecto Adelante (Project Forward) which is sponsored by the Ecumenical Greater Dallas Community of Churches, also expressed concern for deported Salvadoreans based on hundreds of interviews she had held with ref-

ugees. "This is the first time in our history, to my knowledge, that this country is sending refugees back into a civil war. I think it's un-American, and there are many others across Texas who are helping," she said.

Free legal advice

Proyecto Adelante provides free legal advice and social services for Salvadoreans and helps them raise bonds to remain free. Similar operations are conducted by Proyecto Hospitalidad in San Antonio and Proyecto Libertad in Harlingen.

Father Robert Flores, director of the Centre Para Immigrantes in Houston, was also upset at the failure of the United States to accept Salvadoreans as refugees. He said his group had helped 250 Salvadoreans apply for political asylum and another 48 file for Canadian residency.

All the groups supported a bill being considered by a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee to suspend deportation of Salvadoreans until the civil war was over.

"The people who are getting caught, the refugees, are poor people who couldn't care less whether they are governed by communists or the United States," Father Flores said. "They are just afraid for their lives."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K109 ♥Q8763 ♦Q962 ♣6

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

2 ♥ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—You have a maximum one no trump response and three-card support for partner's suit. In addition, partner is marked with a six-card suit for his rebid over your discouraging response. Therefore, we would be inclined to scrape up another bid, and a raise to three hearts is the standout choice.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠KQ874 ♥Q106 ♦84 ♣76

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

3 ♣ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—With your unbalanced hand, you shouldn't linger in one no trump. The decision is simply whether to raise to two hearts or to rebid your spades. Since your hand might turn out to be useless to partner in hearts if the enemy draws trumps, we suggest you rebid your spades. Partner's high cards will be more useful to you with spades as trumps than your spades will be to him if hearts is the trump suit.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠8643 ♥QJ108 ♦A7 ♣AQ6

What is your opening bid?

A.—Technically speaking, your heart suit is biddable. However, if you open one heart and partner responds two diamonds, you will have an unpleasant rebid to make. The hand handles much more easily if you open with a prepared bid of one club. You can raise either major if partner shows one, bid one heart over one diamond and pass one no trump. And if partner raises clubs, you are in your best spot, because partner will almost surely have five clubs for that action.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable,

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠Q109864 ♥KJ95 ♦87 ♣6

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South

1 ♠ Dble 4 ♣ 5 ♥

5 ♠ 5 NT Pass 6 ♣

Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—East has shown a strong, minor two-suiter and your holding indicates that he is probably void in spades. Partner has suggested that he does not have two sure tricks against a club slam—he did not double six clubs—and while your king of hearts might be a trick, we would not bank on it. The prudent course is to sacrifice at six spades. It should not prove expensive.



On the anniversary of Al Isra' and Al Mi'raj

It is the pleasure of the
AL WAHDA STORES
Jabal Amman - Seventh Circle

to inform its customers that the stores will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

All most welcome in stores and
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY